

1996

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Settler stabbed in Hebron; condition remains serious

JON IMMANUEL

NISSIM Gidawi, a 72-year-old Kiryat Arba man, was in serious but stable condition last night after being stabbed in the back with a butcher knife while shopping in the Hebron casbah.

committed by someone with an interest in stopping the withdrawal, maybe collaborators. Former Likud defense minister Ariel Sharon, who came to the scene, suggested that Hebron's Jewish quarter be annexed to Kiryat Arba.



Medics rush Nissim Gidawi to Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, where the knife in his back was removed during surgery yesterday.

'Arafat will accept Hebron pullback delay'

HILLEL KUTTLER and DAVID MAKOVSKY WASHINGTON

PALESTINIAN Authority President Yasser Arafat has made clear to the US that he does not expect Israel to redeploy from Hebron before the May 29 elections, but instead will be satisfied with a gradual approach, diplomatic sources say.

Army to try colonel in seizure of reporters' phone records

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE chief military prosecutor, Brig-Gen. Ori Shoham, has decided to court-martial a Military Police detective who ordered the mobile telephone records of journalists to be seized in an attempt to stem leaks last month.

of negligence for destroying lists concerning the use of the data he obtained and not properly documenting it, and of intentionally hiding the full use of the data he obtained.

mined that he did not pass on the information due to "a negligent and mistaken judgment and acted in good faith and not with malice, and not with the intention of misleading, then there would be room to convict him of negligence."

Swiss bankers, Jewish organizations near claims agreement

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

SWISS bankers and Jewish leaders, harrang any last-minute glitches, will sign an agreement today in New York to work together to resolve the thorny issue of Jewish assets in Swiss bank accounts.

when the commission might conclude its work. Hans Baer, chairman of Bank Julius Baer and a member of the executive board of the Swiss Bankers Association, will sign the agreement on behalf of its 405 member banks, sources said.

Detainees' rights improved by new law

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset last night passed a law which will reform the procedures involved in detaining suspects, including halving the amount of time a suspect can be held without seeing a judge, and should reduce the number of false arrests.

held in detention before being charged. These include reason to believe a suspect will interfere with the judicial procedure or attempt to influence witnesses; flee the country or avoid being brought to trial; hide material related to the case; or endanger public safety.

Police officers must inform suspects of their rights, including the right to remain silent and the right to a lawyer. A suspect will have the right to meet a lawyer from the first investigation.



US: We have evidence Iran is trying to bring down Peres

THE US has its own evidence - backing up assertions by Israeli officials - that Iran is seeking to step up terror in order to unseat the Peres government, senior Clinton administration officials said yesterday.

'LIBI' THE FUND FOR STRENGTHENING ISRAEL'S DEFENSE. A STRONGER AND BETTER SOCIETY. In Israel today there are thousands of young school drop-outs who neither work nor study on a regular basis.

Senate calls for extradition of Abu Abbas

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

THE US Senate Tuesday unanimously called for the extradition of Abu Abbas, who masterminded the 1985 hijacking of the cruise liner Achille Lauro in which a Jewish passenger was murdered.

Abu Abbas, in Gaza for a meeting of the Palestine National Council, told reporters on April 22 that the killing of wheelchair-bound Leon Klinghoffer, 70, was a mistake.

political demonstrations. The government failed to prove that the two intended to further the PFLP's illegal aims. The support for a group's lawful, versus terrorist, activity is at the heart of another immigration proceeding. In New York, Muhammad Musa Abu Marzook has been detained since July in a federal prison while the US tries to bar his legal entry on grounds that he is involved with Hamas.

Knesset discusses postponement of Hebron withdrawal

WHILE Kiryat Arba residents and Meretz supporters protested outside, the Knesset yesterday discussed motions calling for a postponement of the IDF withdrawal from Hebron.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal, speaking on behalf of Prime Minister Shimon Peres, said Israel intends to honor the agreements with the Palestinians, including withdrawing from Hebron, but the timetable demands serious consideration. Likud faction chairman Moshe Katsav called on the government to postpone the pullback until after the elections.

MK Hanan Porat (NRP) said the Hebron redeployment "would be a crime against Judaism, national interests and state security. I believe the entire Oslo agreement was a miserable affair. We are facing a difficult situation and the question is how we deal with facts already on the ground and how to prevent future disasters. The disaster which we're facing in Hebron exceeds those of Nabulus and Jenin, and it's not for nothing that you have hesitated to pull the IDF out from Hebron."

Shahal said under the agreement the IDF is not to completely pull out of Hebron and would remain in control of the Machpela Cave and the Jewish quarter. He said there would be no more than 400 Palestinian

LIAT COLLINS

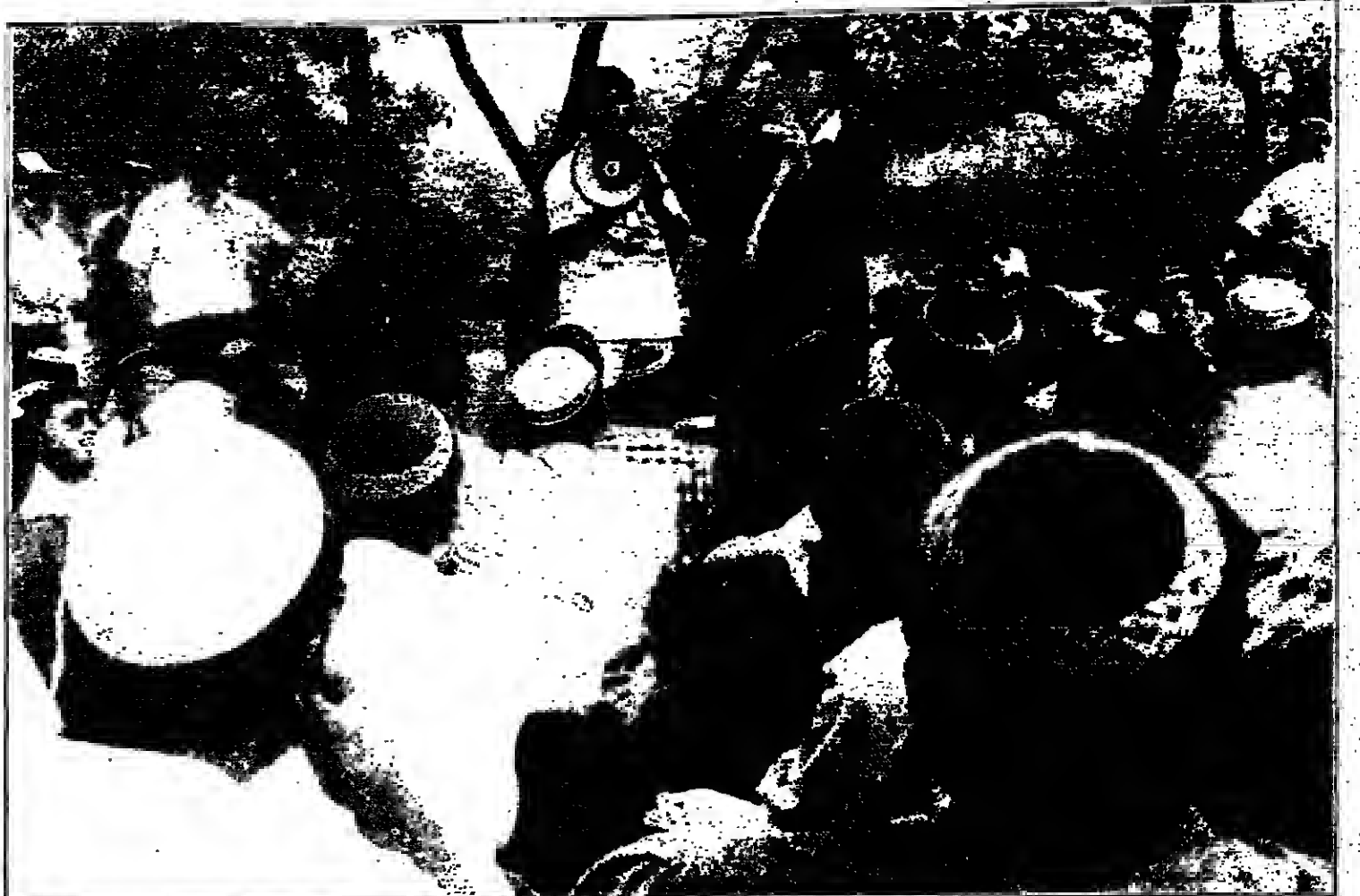
policemen and in the city itself there would be only unarmed municipal inspectors and joint Israeli-Palestinian patrols.

Interior Minister Haim Ramon accused the NRP of trying to avoid the discussion on whether or not to separate from the Palestinians. He said Israel "has to make the difficult choice between the tombs of the forefathers and the future of the sons."

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said if Peres did not honor the accords, PA President Yasser Arafat would not be bound by them, either. The NRP declared its motion a motion of no-confidence. The vote will take place at a later date, after the Knesset House Committee determines whether a no-confidence motion can be heard during the recess.

Earlier yesterday, members of the religious factions met in the Knesset with residents from Hebron and Kiryat Arba to discuss the withdrawal. They are demanding an urgent meeting with Peres on the issue. Kiryat Arba resident Rabbi Eliezer Waldman warned that residents might be forced into desperate and dangerous measures.

Hebron residents said that even OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan had told them he was "shaking" at the thought of what could happen in Hebron after the pullback.



Rabbi Dov Lior of Kiryat Arba speaks outside the Knesset yesterday to demonstrators who gathered to protest the planned IDF evacuation of the city. (Bria Hender)

Plenum debate degenerates into political mudslinging

THE election jingles were all that was missing to accompany the slogans banded about during yesterday's Knesset plenum discussions.

A debate on Operation Grapes of Wrath, initiated by Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen, turned into a discussion on the intentions and abilities of Prime Minister Shimon Peres and opposition leader MK Binyamin Netanyahu.

In his speech, Netanyahu accused Peres of returning to the "bad old days of Mapai" when party interests reigned supreme.

"Everything is for the party and the polls," Netanyahu said.

He said the agreement reached with Hizbullah prepared the ground for attacks on IDF soldiers, adding Peres had "cynically admitted the agreement is expected to last until the elections," revealing his true concern.

Netanyahu also attacked Peres for his statement that the changes

LIAT COLLINS

in the Palestinian Covenant are the most important event in the Middle East in the last century. Netanyahu charged the changes had not been made, but a committee had merely been formed to procrastinate doing so.

"... This is the most important event and not the establishment of the State of Israel, the Six Day War and liberation of Jerusalem, or even the Balfour Declaration?" Netanyahu asked.

He also accused the Labor government of acting to establish a Palestinian state and redivide Jerusalem. He added that Peres was "cynically trying to use US-Israeli relations as part of his party electoral propaganda."

"What wouldn't you do to get back into power, Mr. Netanyahu?" asked Tourism Minister Uzi Baram in response. He accused Netanyahu of changing his mind daily according to the results of public opinion polls.

He said Peres's visit to the US and the agreements signed there on taking joint action against terror could not harm Israel even if they benefited Labor. He also said Operation Grapes of Wrath had achieved its goal of stopping the Katyushas on the northern settlements and creating a coalition to form a solid base for the understandings, while avoiding being dragged into a war of attrition there.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak told the Knesset that Israel's power of deterrence had increased as a result of the operation.

"Anyone in the Arab armies surrounding us who sees the Israel Air Force's ability understands that the same missiles that go through the windows, or hit a solitary vehicle, or hit artillery 57 millimeters from Syrian radar firing next to Beirut airport, can act first in an all-out confrontation. It does not give one the appetite to take on the IDF," Barak said.

Hebron Jews: City will become breeding ground for terrorists

MANY of Hebron's Jewish residents came to Jerusalem yesterday to protest the planned IDF evacuation of the city and to attract national support for their struggle.

The protest was planned long before the stabbing of Kiryat Arba resident Nissim Gidawi in the Hebron cashah yesterday morning. Community leaders said the stabbing, which left Gidawi in serious condition, further demonstrated that the army must stay in Hebron in order to maintain security in the city.

Senior IDF officers have told

the Knesset by residents from other settlements. A special plenum session was held yesterday in which the Hebron withdrawal was discussed. In the early afternoon, there were several hundred demonstrators present.

Two-thirds of the organizations shut down recently by the army because of their affiliation with Hamas are in Hebron, and half of the terrorists detained in the crackdown were from Hebron, what more proof does the government need?" Amon asked.

The protesters from Hebron and Kiryat Arba were joined outside

the Knesset by residents from other settlements. A special plenum session was held yesterday in which the Hebron withdrawal was discussed. In the early afternoon, there were several hundred demonstrators present.

Amon said IDF redeployment from Hebron would mean not only a threat to the security of Jews living in the city, but also to Israel itself, because Hebron, without the army's presence, will turn into a launching pad for terror attacks.

The atmosphere at the protest

was picnic-like. Volunteers gave out ice cream cones to the protesters, to help them keep cool in the extremely hot weather. Dozens of police and border police were present, with police concerned the tempers of protesters might also turn hot.

Amon characterized the protest as "quiet," explaining that Hebron's Jews didn't want to alienate the rest of the country, but gain their support. He warned, however, that if the government goes through with the planned redeployment, "people might lose control."

Peres: No contradiction between French and Israeli policy on Lebanon

THERE is no contradiction between the policies of Israel and France concerning Lebanon, and Jerusalem and Washington welcome French participation in implementing security arrangements in southern Lebanon, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said in Paris yesterday.

Peres and French President Jacques Chirac held a 90-minute luncheon meeting at Elysee Palace that was conducted in a "warm and friendly" atmosphere, according to French sources.

There have been fears that Chirac's declared "amb policy" toward the Middle East might harm relations between Israel and France. However, Peres said his host used the term "Middle Eastern policy" instead. That says it all, Peres noted.

Peres has repeatedly expressed his wish to see France engaged in reactivating the peace process, especially with Lebanon.

"France and Israel agree that the Lebanese have to recover their political independence and territorial integrity," Peres said after meeting Chirac.

Chirac and Peres mainly discussed the security agreements that were worked out by US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette last weekend. According to Peres, this written understanding gives all partners "a great chance, not only to resolve problems of the past, but also to open a new stage [of peace] in the future." The two leaders discussed means to implement the arrangements.

Both agreed on the necessity to have a "two-tier" structure. This would combine a five-member monitoring committee (US, France, Syria, Lebanon and Israel) that will supervise the situation in south Lebanon and intervene to prevent military incidents, and a larger consultation committee including representatives of the EU, Russia and Japan, aimed

at reconstructing Lebanon. Peres told Chirac that Israel is willing to participate in financing the reconstruction of Lebanon, though he told journalists that this did not mean payment of compensation, "since Israel also suffered damage."

Peres invited Chirac to soon make an official visit to Israel. The French president accepted the invitation, but no date was set.

Earlier, Peres inaugurated the "Square of Tolerance," dedicated to Yitzhak Rabin, at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The inauguration took place with the participation of Leah Rabin, UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor, and French Justice Minister and socialist opposition leader Lionel Jospin. The ceremony was boycotted by all Arab delegates and representatives in UNESCO and France.

The square, designed by Israeli artist Dani Karavan, is a gift from Israel to UNESCO. Before leaving Paris, Peres met with UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

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Rubinstein: North to get more educational resources

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein announced a series of measures yesterday to improve educational conditions in the northern border communities.

Rubinstein met with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday to discuss the educational needs of schools in the North.

At the end of the meeting, Rubinstein said NIS 2 million had been allocated for the installation of air-conditioners in Kiryat Shmona schools.

Regarding school counseling, another 200 hours of psychological counseling will be added this year, and 500 next year to schools in the North. Rubinstein said another 10 positions for school psychologists would also be added.

He said NIS 4.5 million would be granted over the next three years for the development of Tel Hai college.

Summer camps in the North will also get extra funds.

"Vast resources must be allocated to return life in the North to normal, especially in the education system, since it is the barometer of every community's social life," Rubinstein said.

(Itim)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thousands of shekels stolen from Egged

An Egged cashier carrying tens of thousands of shekels was mugged yesterday afternoon in Beit Shemesh. He had been on his way to deposit the day's earnings in a nearby bank when a man, whom passersby said appeared to be in his twenties, attacked him, stole the money, and disappeared. Several passersby unsuccessfully attempted to apprehend the thief. Police are investigating the incident. Itim

Man, son sentenced for raping daughter

A 59-year-old Tel Aviv man and his 28-year-old son were sentenced to five years in jail and two years' suspended sentence yesterday by the Tel Aviv District Court for raping and sodomizing the man's 22-year-old retarded daughter.

The men, accused of committing the acts during the girl's 1992 Succot visit to her father's home, denied the charges. They also are mentally ill, but were found fit to stand trial. The judge ruled that the girl did not know it was wrong to have sex with her father and brother, and therefore did not object. However, because she is retarded, her "agreement" to have such relations could not be recognized as such. A third suspect was found innocent. Itim

Patients' rights law passes

A law passed in the Knesset last night should significantly improve patients' rights. The law grants the right of emergency treatment to all; the right to information about the doctor and treatment; and the right to a second opinion. Doctors will be obliged to gain the patient's consent for treatment under all but exceptional circumstances. The law also calls for a committee to be established to investigate patients' complaints.

The legislation was sponsored by Labor MK Yossi Katz, chairman of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee. Liat Collins

Gilman calls on PNC to finalize changes in covenant

Jerusalem Post Staff

US Congressman Benjamin Gilman called on the Palestinians to comply with their obligation to delete the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that are inimical to Israel by the May 7 deadline set by the Oslo 2 agreements.

"[Last] Wednesday's vote by the Palestinian National Council in closed session to delegate the necessary authority to a so-called 'legal committee' was only a first step," reads a statement the New York congressman released.

"The vote did not specify the clauses to be deleted from the charter, nor did it establish a date by which the committee was to report back to the full Palestinian National Council, nor yet a date by which the Council itself was to act."

"As of now, the obligation to amend the charter has not been fulfilled," Gilman's statement read.

He said the PNC vote was important because "it shows that [Palestinian Authority President] Yasser Arafat understands that the Covenant with its language calling for the destruction of Israel is an obstacle to peace, and that Arafat can deliver when he understands that he must."

Gilman also called on Arafat to demonstrate his commitment to the peace process by uprooting the terrorist infrastructure in the areas under the PA's control and making it clear that terrorism will not be tolerated.

12 hurt in accidents

A soldier was seriously injured and two others were lightly hurt when their car overturned yesterday afternoon in the Jordan Valley road, near Kibbutz Beit Zera. The car swerved off the road, hit a tree and then overturned. The three soldiers were brought to Poriya Hospital near Tiberias. The police and military police are investigating the cause of the accident.

On the same road later in the evening, nine people were lightly injured at Migdal junction, when two cars collided after one ran a stop sign. Itim

Peres-Netanyahu TV debate set for May 26

THE two candidates for prime minister, Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader MK Binyamin Netanyahu, will take part in a televised debate on May 26, three days before the elections.

The date was set yesterday at a meeting between Labor's campaign information chairman Haim Ramon and his Likud counterpart, Limor Livnat.

Labor rejected the Likud's initial demand for a number of televised debates between the two. Ramon

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

insisted on the traditional format of one debate moderated by a senior television personality, established in 1977.

The moderator for the debate, which will be broadcast on both television channels, has not been decided on yet.

The campaign television broadcasts, due to begin next Sunday, will open with a Labor video clip and end with a Likud one, Ramon and Livnat decided.

Party funding bill expected to pass

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset late last night was expected to increase the funding which several parties will receive for the upcoming elections, by allowing parties to continue to receive funding for breakaway MKs.

However, the breakaway MKs will also receive funding for their new parties. Thus the taxpayer will pay twice for each breakaway once to his original party, and once to his new party. The law passed easily passed first reading and returned to the Knesset Finance Committee which was expected to rush it through its second and third readings late last night.

The bill also raises the limit on contributions by individuals to the parties. Until now, the law limited donations to NIS 500 per household. However, the new law changes the limit to NIS 500 per person.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

ASHER WALLFISH

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, May 2, 1996, at 4:00 p.m., at Kibbutz Gvat

Please refrain from condolence visits

Wife: Claude Wallfish
Daughters: Corie, Talla and their families
Sons: Shmaya, Patrick and their families

We mourn the passing of our dear friend and colleague

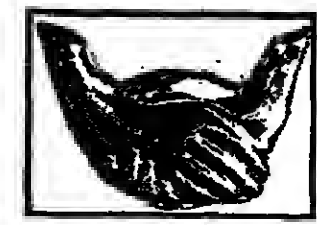
ASHER WALLFISH

and extend condolences to the family.

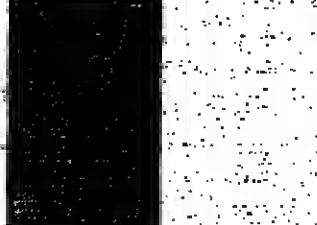
Management and staff of the Jerusalem Post

"Hope" The Jewel of Peace


Beautiful gifts FOR HIM and FOR HER - from the "Hope" collection by the Jerusalem artist Elaine Cohen Ashby. The dove, symbol of peace from time immemorial, is depicted in a handshakes - one hand in 24 karat gold, the other in 925 sterling silver. These beautiful items express the artist's hope for a better future for all peoples of the world.



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Enclosed is my check payable to The Jerusalem Post, or credit card details: Diners Visa Mastercard

Number: _____ Exp: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Code: _____ ID No: _____

Tel. (day): _____ Signature: _____

Court rejects petition for Russian, Amharic voter data

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice rejected a petition demanding that certain types of voter information be in Russian and Amharic, as well as in Hebrew and Arabic, saying that in some cases, the law does not permit this, and in others, there is simply not enough time prior to the elections to make the necessary arrangements.

The petition, filed by the Yisrael Ba'aliya Party, asked that Russian and Amharic be added to both the voter notices telling people where to vote and the ballots for the prime ministerial race. It also requested that parties be allowed to put Russian and Amharic translations of their symbols on the ballot slips.

At a hearing yesterday, the party withdrew its requests regarding the ballots for both party and prime ministerial elections after it

became clear that the law explicitly forbade any language other than Hebrew and Arabic to be printed on the ballots. However, the state said it would consider posting lists identifying the party symbols in Russian and Amharic in the polling stations, at the suggestion of Justice Yitzhak Zamir.

With regard to the voter notices, the state argued that there was not time to implement such a change, because the voter rolls do not identify voters by their country of origin and finding this information for each voter would be a major research project.

Furthermore, government attorney Dana Briskman said, voting procedures have been extensively publicized in Russian and Amharic, and the Central

Elections Committee will also man telephone hotlines in these languages for people who are not sure where they should go to vote. Therefore, she said, any immigrant who wants to vote can easily find out where to go.

Attorney Joseph Perlov, representing Yisrael Ba'aliya, argued that these measures are not enough. Furthermore, he said, the problem could be solved by sending a second notice in Russian and Amharic to all people who immigrated after a certain date - which would not be a major burden on the state - instead of to each person according to his country of origin.

However, Justices Aharon Barak, Dori Beinisch, and Zamir decided that it was simply too close to the elections to demand that the state make such a change, and therefore rejected the petition.

Israel to help remove mines from Angola

BATSHEVA TSUR

ANGOLA, where some 70,000 people have been killed by mines in the past two years, is seeking aid from Israel in tracing and defusing the explosives.

In a Jerusalem meeting yesterday, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak told his Angolan counterpart, Juoro De Miranda, that Israel would join in the UN effort to rid that country of the mines which were haphazardly laid by the warring sides. There are no maps available of the mine sites.

Israel is also looking into the possibility of sending a medical team to fight the malaria which has affected members of the UN peacekeeping forces maintaining the cease-fire in Angola.

The Angolan foreign minister delivered a letter from Angolan President Jose Dos Santos expressing satisfaction over the Middle East peace process, to be given to Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

De Miranda is expected to give a similar epistle to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat when they meet today in Gaza.

Angola has also expressed interest in expanding its international cooperation projects with



Angolan Foreign Minister Juoro De Miranda examines exhibits at Yad Vashem yesterday. (Ha'aretz/Israel)

New law cuts time soldiers can be held without seeing judge

EVELYN GORDON

THE length of time for which a soldier can be jailed without seeing a judge was reduced yesterday by two-thirds, to eight days, in a new law passed by the Knesset.

The law, which takes effect in 60 days, also states that this period will be reduced again, to 48 hours, two years later.

Currently, soldiers can be held by the military police for up to 25 days without the approval of a military judge. The new law, in addition to reducing this period to eight days, also adds a new layer of supervision to the process: After four days, an arrest order will require the approval of a military prosecutor.

Finally, the law states that in two years, the maximum period a soldier can be held without a judge's approval will go down again, to 48 hours. The army, backed by the government, had opposed this provision, saying it wanted to see how the reduction to eight days worked before committing to any further changes. However, MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz) then submitted it to the plenum as an amendment, and the plenum voted to accept it.

Zucker explained that in the civilian world, no one can be held for more than 48 hours without seeing a judge, and the Knesset Law Committee is now working on a bill to reduce this period still further, to 24 hours. While the army needs time to adjust to the new regime, there is no justification in the long term for the large gap between military and civilian arrest procedures, he said.

This gap has also been challenged in a petition to the High Court of Justice by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. The petition, which is still pending, argued that allowing soldiers to be jailed for eight days without seeing a judge violates the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom.

Hadassah International to establish branches in Morocco, New Zealand

JUDY SIEGEL

HADASSAH-International, a medical relief group in 34 countries affiliated with the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is working to establish new branches in Morocco and New Zealand.

The international organization's membership consists of both women and men, Jews and non-Jews, whose common denominator is a professional interest in medical services.

The initial aim is to bring in members of the Jewish community in Morocco, but the organization does not rule out including Moslems as well.

The five-day conference of Hadassah-International, which has been attended by 200 participants from North and South America, Europe and Southeast Asia, will end today.

Entertainer Harry Belafonte, who was supposed to receive a special award for his UNICEF work, was unable to come to Jerusalem, as he has to undergo surgery.

He will receive his prize later at Hadassah headquarters in New York.

Personal inscription to be allowed on soldiers' tombstones

LIAT COLLINS

FAMILIES of fallen IDF soldiers can now add a couple of lines of personal inscription to the tombstones.

A law, sponsored by MK Dedi Zucker (Meretz), passed second and third reading in the Knesset yesterday.

Under the law, the principle of uniformity for soldiers' tombstones will be preserved, as the extra lines will be added in the same place on all the stones.

Bereaved parents at the Knesset for the discussion yesterday greeted the bill with mixed emotions, saying certain clauses violate a High Court of Justice decision on the subject and detract from the honor of the dead. In particular, the bereaved parents want the epitaph to be inscribed on the headstone while the IDF is insisting it be added on the flat part of the tombstone.

The law passed unanimously by 12 votes. It was decided that the defense minister will determine the precise regulations. The IDF will also be given the right to veto phrasing.

Bill passed to stop abuse of soldiers during training

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset yesterday passed second and third readings of a bill aimed at preventing the abuse of soldiers under the guise of training.

The bill, proposed by MK Esther Salmovitz (Atid), calls for a one-year jail sentence for soldiers who abuse their authority. Until now the punishment was demotion. The new law allows for a three-year sentence in particularly severe cases. Officers who

abuse their authority during training exercises could receive a three-year sentence, or five years in specially harsh circumstances. Salmovitz said there had been a recent increase in the number of cases in which soldiers were mistreated on the pretext of training exercises. She said there is no justification for the use of physical pressure which could endanger soldiers and that heavy sentences could be a deterrent.

FAO planning international food summit here

BATSHEVA TSUR

REPRESENTATIVES from more than 50 countries attending the European Regional Summit of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization - being hosted for the first time by Israel - are, among other items on their agenda, preparing for the first World Food Summit.

Close to 200 heads of state are expected to attend the five-day

summit, which is to open in Rome on November 17, the upcoming summit's secretary-general, Kay Killingsworth, said yesterday in Tel Aviv.

Killingsworth said that nearly 800 million people are chronically undernourished and some 200 million children under the age of five are in jeopardy because of

chronic protein or calorie deficiencies.

By the year 2030, there will be 3 billion more people on earth - most of them in the developing nations - and without concerted global action the number which is undernourished will not substantially diminish, she said.

"The summit is a landmark event. For the first time, the heads of government will make a concerted effort to eradicate hunger and ensure universal food security," Killingsworth said. "The responsibilities of the individual nations and international bodies will be defined. We have to put the food issue back at the top of the international political agenda."

Bank customers can file class-action suits

EVELYN GORDON

CUSTOMERS will now be able to file class-action suits against banks, according to a law which passed its final reading in the Knesset yesterday. The law will only cover complaints stemming from actions which occur after it passes.

Health Ministry 'quit smoking' contest offers trip to Canada

JUDY SIEGEL

A TRIP to Canada is the first prize in the Health Ministry's third annual "I Quit, I Win" competition. The winner will participate in an international quit-smoking competition in Canada, where the top prize will be \$5,000 and all expenses paid for one week.

The events are planned as part of World No-Tobacco Day, to be held on May 31.

The Health Ministry's local competition is being sponsored by the Israel Cancer Association, the Israel Society for the Prevention of Smoking, the health funds, and other members of the Israel Forum for the Prevention of Smoking.

The "I Quit, I Win" competition begins today. Participants must be 18 or over and have smoked at least one cigarette a day for at least a year.

They must have quit smoking for a minimum of a month from the start of the competition until the lonely choosing the prize winners is held.

The contestants must agree to undergo a medical test to ensure that they have quit smoking, and registration forms must be signed by two witnesses, one of whom may be a relative.

The first prize, donated by Air Canada, is a flight to Canada; the second prize is a four-day trip to Turkey; the third prize is an Arkia flight to Eilat and two nights for a couple in a local hotel.



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert awards Benjamin Pater, 5, the Jerusalem Pin yesterday on his completion of the four-day Walk for Water, sponsored by the Jewish National Fund of Great Britain to raise money for JNF water reservoirs. This was the third year Ben participated in the event. (See Makorim)

The International Center for Peace in the Middle East congratulates Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, the members of the Palestinian National Council and the entire Palestinian people, on the democratic and historic decision which brings to a close the struggles of the past and advocates courageous goals of peace and reconciliation for the future.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Workers of the world march again

News agencies

WORKERS of the world united yesterday to celebrate May Day with mostly peaceful demonstrations in pursuit of their claims for safer jobs, better pay and more political choice.

Only in Turkey was there serious violence. Turkish television reported two people killed before an International Labor Day rally in Istanbul.

Fights broke out, and guns were fired, after a group of demonstrators refused to submit to police screening, the report said.

Two wounded demonstrators died in hospital from gunshot wounds.

Lesser violence was reported in Germany, where 150 rioters clashed during a street party in east Berlin with police using batons, teargas and water cannon, authorities said.

Police had feared left-wing or anarchist troublemakers would use the "Walpurgisnacht" Witches Night party, organized by young alternative groups and squatters, to start a riot.

In Moscow, thousands of marchers turned the traditional celebrations into mass shows of political support for rival candidates in next month's Russian presidential election.

Communist supporters, led by party leader Gennady Zyuganov, gathered under a statue of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin before marching in a sea of red flags to the Bolshoi Theatre.

"There is not a single person here who won't be voting for Gennady Zyuganov," said one marcher as rain began to fall.

Across the city, President Boris Yeltsin, trailing Zyuganov in most polls, told a rally of several thousand trade unionists all democratic forces must unite before the ballot.

Yeltsin, 65, who had two heart attacks last year, danced a jig with a woman in traditional dress.

Russian news agencies said Grozny, the capital of Chechnya, largely destroyed by Russian shelling last year, was almost deserted after local authorities banned all events.

Cuba's leaders vowed to mass one million people on Havana's streets yesterday for a May Day demonstration to show defiance of US government efforts to isolate the communist island.

This year's march follows three years in which the traditional labor celebration was canceled because of an economic crisis that made fuel and transport hard to find.

Billboards and street paintings across Havana exhort Cubans to attend the march. Party officials circulated through workplaces and door-to-door in neighborhoods urging people to march.

The focus of the march is opposition to a tough new US embargo known as the Helms-Burton Act, passed in March.

"We all march against Helms-Burton," read the headline in Sunday's weekly newspaper, Juventud Rebelde (Rebel Youth). It was arranged over a photograph of a globe bound in rope and bearing a "Made in USA" label.

In Beijing, and in most other places, economic rather than political problems were uppermost in demonstrators' minds.

Chinese police broke up an International Labor Day demonstration and detained several people after clothes vendors took to the streets protesting against the alleged seizure of their goods.



France's far-right National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen salutes the crowd in front of a large mural of Joan of Arc during yesterday's May Day rally in Paris's Place de l'Opera. At left is National Front regional secretary Bruno Megret. (Reuters)

Monrovia fighting spreads; US marines fire on Liberians

NYENATI ALLISON
MONROVIA

BODIES piled up across Liberia's capital as the latest truce collapsed in a frenzy of bullets and shelling. Three were killed by US Marines as they ran toward the US Embassy firing their guns.

Twelve days after warlords agreed to a cease-fire, the streets of Monrovia were in the hands of gunmen again yesterday. The fighting is the fiercest since battles first broke out April 6.

Fighting yesterday was concentrated around a besieged military training camp, whose floors were bathed in blood after dozens of victims were carried in or dragged themselves through the door.

Rocket-propelled grenades smashed into the grounds of the camp as doctors worked, bringing wails of fear and pain from civilians who thrashed on the floors or on flimsy stretchers.

Fighting remained heavy at the training camp yesterday. Warlord Roosevelt Johnson has been holed up inside with hundreds of armed supporters since April 6 in an attempt to evade arrest on murder charges for clashes in March.

The government troops trying to arrest him include fighters loyal to rival warlords Charles Taylor and Alhaji Kromah, members of a six-man ruling council made up of faction leaders and civilians.

All sides had agreed April 19 to a truce negotiated at the American Embassy, but fighting reignited Monday as government leaders attempted to meet at government headquarters. George Moose, the US assistant secretary of

state for African affairs, had intended to hold talks at the American Embassy with government, peacekeeping and faction leaders. But mortars, machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades forced him to cancel.

The executive mansion is near the military camp, and Taylor and Kromah accused Johnson's men of attacking them from there.

Moose blamed Taylor for the renewed fighting and warned of a "major catastrophe" if it continued.

"Taylor will be held responsible," Moose said in a telephone interview from the embassy. "If he persists in taking power, he should expect a strong international reaction."

US troops were drawn into the violence for the first time when they fired on gunmen shooting toward the embassy, which is guarded by about 230 Marines.

"We don't know what (the attackers) were aiming at," US Defense Department spokesman Kenneth Bacon said in Washington. "Fire came in and it was returned."

Three Liberians were killed and a fourth was wounded by the American troops, who are stationed throughout the sprawling compound.

Witnesses said the dead Liberians were Johnson fighters who were running toward the embassy firing their weapons while pursuing rival gunmen.

By early yesterday the area had quieted

down and was back in the hands of Taylor's fighters. At least nine bodies were seen in the area, and bodies littered the streets of the city elsewhere.

The once-plush neighborhood is now blighted by looted United Nations offices, burned-out cars and ramshackle dwellings sheltering homeless civilians.

Doctors at the military compound clinic said at least three people had died there Tuesday and 60 wounded came in, many of them civilians caught in cross-fire. The casualty toll was sure to rise once the streets were safe enough to begin counting victims.

The fighting could jeopardize the United States' offer of \$30 million in aid to bolster the West African peacekeeping army deployed in Liberia since 1990.

The army, which numbers about 8,500, was accused of not doing enough to prevent the first round of fighting April 6-19, and it had maintained a heavy presence in the streets after the truce.

But soldiers quickly abandoned their positions to the heavily armed rebels who overran the city.

Liberia's civil war began six years ago, but the capital had been considered a safe haven under peacekeepers' protection and had not experienced all-out warfare since 1992, when Taylor tried to take the city. The peacekeeping army drove him back.

The US military began evacuating Americans and other foreigners from the city April 10. (AP)

Stunned Australia falls silent

HOBART, Australia (AP) — Still stunned by the horrifying slaughter of 35 people by a lone gunman this week, Australians across the nation sadly observed a minute of silence yesterday for the victims.

Thirty-five candles, representing each of the dead, were placed at the foot of a simple wooden crucifix erected in front of an ornate altar during a memorial service at the Gothic-style St. David's Anglican Cathedral.

Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Muslim clergy read lessons from their respective holy texts at the service.

As the nationally televised service began at 10:30 a.m., a minute of silence fell over Australia.

The hundreds of mourners included family, friends and neighbors of those killed at Port Arthur, a historic tourist site in Tasmania. A few of those who witnessed the bloodbath also came to pray.

Grief-stricken, they sang hymns and bowed their heads. Many sobbed and hugged as they tried to come to grips with the tragic scale of the massacre, the worst in Australia's modern history.

About 800 worshippers filled the sandstone cathedral, with many more outside. Some sat in stands erected in closed-off streets.

Tasmania's Anglican Bishop Philip Newell said the slayings "have plunged us into the darkness of grief."

"The suddenness of the assault, the senselessness of the carnage, have left us in deep shock and even anger. The destruction of beautiful lives and the wastefulness of it all have immersed us in a sorrow which we have never known before," he said in his sermon.

The Australian Stock Exchange and the Sydney Futures Exchange shut down for one minute in tribute, and tram service was halted for a minute in Melbourne.

Flags across Australia flew at half staff, and services were held in other cities.

"No one in our small community goes untouched by this wickedness. Pain is etched in every face," Tasmanian state Premier Peter Rundle told the congregation.

Condolence messages came from Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as well from Dunblane, the village in Scotland which still mourns the loss of 16 children and their teacher in a massacre on March 13.

Earlier Prime Minister John Howard visited the death scene at a picturesque colonial prison site, 50 km southeast of Hobart.

East German files cast light on Nazis

BONN (Reuters) — East German secret police files that have come to light since unification in 1990 are giving prosecutors a last chance to nail Nazi war criminals who for decades were left unpunished for lack of evidence.

Nazi-bunters are poring over millions of documents known as the "Z files" that East Berlin's notorious Ministry for State Security (Stasi) compiled before the communist state collapsed, officials said in interviews this week.

The material is a potential treasure trove of records so sensitive that only prosecutors are allowed to see them as they seek more clues to revive dozens of stalled war crimes probes.

"The Stasi files sometimes provide material that can help us pick up the threads after 20 years," said Herbert Schneider, an investigator at the central bureau in Ludwigsburg probing Nazi crimes.

File information, first turned over to the "Gauk agency" in charge of Stasi documents in 1993, have already prompted Cologne prosecutors to re-open a war crime probe into former minister Theodor Oberlander.

Transcribed witness accounts allege Oberlander killed prisoners and ordered soldiers to com-

mit other crimes in Eastern Europe when he was an army officer in 1941 and 1942.

Oberlander, who served in the German government from 1953 to 1960 and is now 91 years old, has denied the charge.

An East German court sentenced him in his absence to life in prison in April 1960, but parallel proceedings in West Germany were dropped when prosecutors failed to substantiate charges.

A Berlin court overturned the old East German conviction in 1993.

Schneider said the Oberlander case could be one of many spawned by the Z files, named for their designation in the Stasi filing system, although the quality of the documents varied.

The files contain Nazi and German army documents from 1933 to 1945, as well as from the de-Nazification process after the war.

The raw mass of data became a potent library only after the Stasi created Main Department DX/11 in 1968 with the task of gathering, ransacking and exploiting pre-1945 Nazi material.

The files helped East Germany to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity, but also to blackmail Nazis into spying for the Stasi.

Defiant Chechen leader alive, vows to keep fighting

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Chechen separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, reported by pro-Moscow officials as having been killed, has appeared on television and vowed to keep fighting Russian forces, Interfax news agency said yesterday.

"Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, successor to Dzhokhar Dudayev, spoke on the television channel of the armed Chechen opposition and vowed that the fighters intend to 'continue their struggle to the last soldier,'" Interfax said.

The rebel television broadcasts in southern mountains where most fighters are based after more than 16 months of bloody fighting with Russian troops.

Several officials of the pro-Moscow Chechen government had said Yandarbiyev, 44, died Sunday night in a gun battle with other separatists near Urus-Martan, 25 km south of Grozny.

Yandarbiyev's reported death was accompanied by a barrage of speculation by various officials about disarray and divisions in the guerrilla leadership after the death of former Soviet air force general Dudayev, killed in a rocket attack, which rebel leaders blamed on the Russians, on April 21.

Yandarbiyev, a hardline secessionist, took over in his capacity as Dudayev's vice-president.

South African strike tests ruling alliance

BRENDAN BOYLE
CAPE TOWN

TUESDAY'S national strike tested the cohesion of an alliance between South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) and its labor and communist partners and members said the bonds held.

The formal alliance between the ANC, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the South African Communist Party (SACP) helped Nelson Mandela to a runaway victory in the first all-race elections in 1994 — and to the presidency.

But after two years in power, the ANC and its partners are finding their priorities are no longer always identical.

The tension became most evident this week as Mandela and ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa failed to persuade

Cosatu to call off a one-day national strike against a labor clause in a draft constitution due to be ratified next week.

Still, the ANC said its failure to stop the strike was not a sign of a rupture in the alliance.

"I don't think there is any strain, or much strain in the alliance," Ramaphosa, a former mine union leader, told Reuters.

"The ANC has to consider a whole range of interests from time to time. As a government, we have to take into account a whole range of stakeholders, including Cosatu and business."

An SACP member who declined to be identified con-

firmed that a special leadership meeting on the eve of the stoppage dealt with how the alliance should approach the strike.

"Where there is a conflict between workers and bosses, the alliance must never strengthen the hand of the bosses — that was reaffirmed," the delegate said.

The strike stemmed from a labor-employer conflict over the inclusion in the final majority-rule constitution of an employer's right to lock out strikers.

While the ANC supported the deletion of the lock-out clause, it opposed Cosatu's resort to a strike in the middle of the worst economic crisis the new government

has faced. The impending strike was cited as a factor in the rand's fall last week to an all-time low of 4.58 to the dollar from 3.65 at the beginning of the year. It has recovered to 4.32.

"Cosatu is not helping at all. We can't understand what they are thinking about," said a source close to Mandela.

SACP deputy chairman Blade Nzimande said the alliance debate leading up to the strike had forced the three parties to reexamine their objectives, but had not strained their cohesion.

"The strike was not a test of the alliance in any negative sense, in the sense that anything is tearing at it. We have come out much, much stronger and united in terms of our vision." (Reuters)

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מסכתו של הרמב"ם

Public in the dark over fraudulent eye specialists



This white pique suit by American designer Jeanette Kastenberg is available at the Wear House in Herzliya Pituah.

Label lust

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

WHEN it opened last year in the Herzliya Pituah Industrial Zone, the Wear House, operating on a labels-for-less formula, attracted an instant following, despite the fact that most of its designer-label merchandise came from the previous year's collections.

A couple of seasons of minimalism coupled with the resurrection of classicism, made the garments eminently sellable, and women flocked from around the country to buy items previously unavailable here. It didn't matter that they weren't the latest inspirations off the drawing board. What counted was that they were imbued with the magical aura of the top names in the world of fashion.

But now the Wear House has gone one better and is actually selling treadscooters from current US and European collections at prices lower than those charged abroad.

One of the dangers in a labels-for-less operation is that fashion name-droppers will buy something unflattering for the sake of showing off the label. Don't let the big names fool you.

The possibility of name-intoxication manifested itself this week when the Wear House showed its most recent acquisitions which included some downright dowdy Christian Dior creations.

Dior was not the only disappointment of the day, but the runway displays were generally upbeat, with the Sixties not only revisited but restructured. Trapeze-line dresses, for instance, were more streamlined than they had been in an earlier era, and tailored jackets had a softer line than the severe constructions synonymous with classicism.

What was patently obvious was that, despite the forecasts that the mini won't last, it seems destined

CAN you define ophthalmologist, optometrist, and optician without peeking in the dictionary? Has this knowledge stood you in good stead when purchasing eyeglasses? Do you know, for example, which of the above has license to examine your eyes?

Vision impairment is widespread enough without the increasing blindness of the public to the unethical, and on occasion illegal, practices of Israeli eyeglass entrepreneurs.

To make matters worse, the two bodies empowered to protect us from falling prey to such practices - the Ministry of Health and the Israel Police - have been turning an equally blind eye to their existence. Left with little alternative but to fend for ourselves, let us set our sights beyond the glare of glitzy ad campaigns and focus on health.

The influx of large "vision centers" has been considered a positive phenomenon for the consumer. The exaggerated profits previously gained from the sale of frames is kept in check by competition between shops. However, important as these facial fixtures may be in terms of how we look, frames contribute nil to how we see.

Y.E. was strolling through the

mall with his 10-year-old son. After completing the usual toy-store and fast-food rounds, the young lad had one of his recurring headaches. (No wonder, considering the amount of noise in his ears and burger grease in his belly.) Fortuitously sporting an "Opticana" branch, Y.E. was reminded of his intention to take his son to an eye doctor (ophthalmologist) to see if a vision problem was behind the boy's condition.

When Y.E. arrived home a few hours later with a bespectacled son in tow and a wallet four hundred shekels lighter, his wife was a bit surprised.

When he said: "It's lucky I took him for a check-up. It turns out he needed glasses after all," his wife picked up the phone and made an appointment for her son with an eye doctor.

Upon examining both the boy and his spiffy new specs, the doctor informed the parents that they'd been duped. Not only did the child not require glasses, but the lenses of the glasses he was wearing were so low in number that they were about as effective as a window pane.

According to Basheva Daffan, optics coordinator of the National Federation of Commerce in Israel, had Y.E. sued "Opticana" in the

CAVEAT EMPTOR! RUTHIE BLUM

Small Claims Court, he probably would have won. "Had he complained to the Health Ministry, on the other hand," she said shaking her head, "nothing would have been done."

Daffan, whose husband is a leading Jerusalem optometrist, is involved in an on-going struggle to ensure the Practice of Optometry Law (1991) is enforced. But to enforce a law, the body responsible must supervise practitioners. In this case, the body responsible is the Ministry of Health, and practitioners range from licensed optometrists to charlatan merchants.

According to Daffan, "Opticana" and "Optica Halperin" are the most blatant violators of the law, which forbids vision examination to be performed by anyone other than a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist - or by an optometry apprentice, under strict supervision. Neither, she claims, employs licensed optometrists to examine customers. ("The only interest Rabbi Raphael Halperin has in optometry is commercial," she emphasized, pointing to the numerous complaints against him handled

by the Israel Consumer Council.)

Had Y.E. been familiar with the law, which further states: "An optometrist will not treat a child or an elderly person, unless the treatment is done under the supervision of, or referral by, an ophthalmologist...," his mall excursion would not have included a spur-of-the-moment splurge on specs for his son. The rest of us, at least, are now forewarned.

Health Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai responded to my inquiry as follows: "The Ministry of Health can supervise licensed practitioners. Complaints against a licensed practitioner are examined, and - depending on the findings - steps are taken, including revocation of a license. Practitioners who do not possess a license are in violation of the law. Complaints against them should be lodged with the police."

In other words, any charlatan can set up shop, advertise, examine our eyes, and sell us glasses. It is only the licensed optometrists who are answerable to the Health Ministry.

Beware. Only an ophthalmologist or licensed optometrist can perform vision examinations, and determine which type of lens is suitable. The optician is a technician who prepares glasses according to a prescription. A salesperson can only

assist in finding a frame and depositing cash in the register. Do not rely on a license on the wall of an optometry shop.

Make sure the license holder is on the premises and is performing the eye examinations. Also, don't be swayed by unusually low prices for specialty (i.e. scratch-free) lenses.

This may indicate the lens in question isn't what the salesperson purports. To select an optometrist, employ the method used by most of us when searching for a reliable medical professional: ask around.

THE MINISTRY of Health has begun a two-month campaign (April 28 - June 28) to promote proper nutrition. Branches of the major supermarket chains (Co-Op Blue Square, Co-Op North, Hypershuk, Co-Op Jerusalem, Superol-Hypercol, Shekem, and Greenberg) will offer bargains on dietary products.

Taste-testing will be available at some of the branches; others will have nutritionists on the premises to answer customers' questions.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Japan, land of the vending machine

IT was 11 p.m. and Umi Sakaguchi needed a birthday present, fast. In other places, she might have been out of luck.

But this is Japan, so she ran to the street corner, dropped \$100 in a vending machine and just like that, with a whir and a clunk, she had a gift-wrapped Armani tie in a pretty little box.

"Thank God! I was so relieved," said Sakaguchi, 29, a hostess in a Japanese bar whose livelihood depends on making regular customers feel special, especially on birthdays. "Vending machines are great when you're busy. You can get what you want, when you want."

Beer, whiskey, boxer shorts, sausage, rice, life insurance, dirty movies, eggs, pearls and custom-made business cards. There is almost nothing that is not available in a vending machine in Japan, which US Ambassador Walter F. Mondale calls "the vending machine capital of the world."

Vending machines, which also offer \$100 stuffed elephants, disposable cameras and panty hose, are a \$6.5 billion-a-year business in Japan. They are a way of life in a country that delights in gadgets - from wristwatches that double as television remote controls to toilets with control panels for seat temperatures.

Japan's newest vending machines are the Rhodes scholars of mechanical gizmos. There is "no-brand" vending, which delivers coffee chest-high (convenient with Japan's skin-tight miniskirts), and machines planted with flowers to look pretty. Some soda machines will fortune-tell, and inside one of the hottest night-

clubs in Tokyo, customers sidle up to a vending machine, not the bar, for a \$5 brew.

Most Japanese vending machines are outdoors; there's even one atop snowy Mount Fuji.

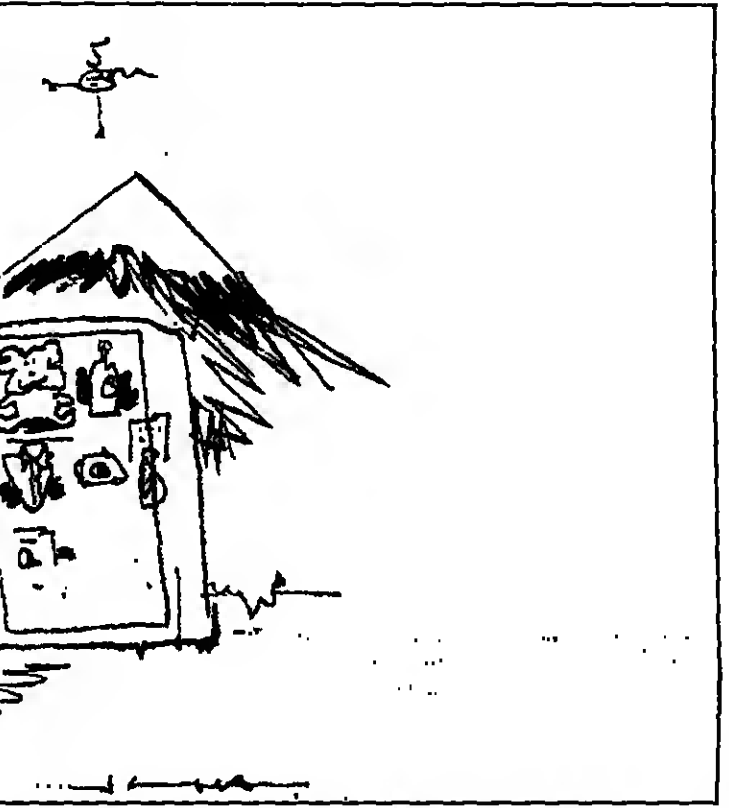
Low vandalism rates allow even expensive items to be on public display throughout the night. Space is expensive, so shop owners use vending machines to stretch shelf area and consumers use them to supplement the tiny refrigerators found

in cramped Japanese homes.

Takashi Kurosaki, secretary general of the Japan Vending Machine Manufacturers' Association, said the Japanese feel more warmly about machines than do Westerners. In the US, Coca-Cola sells about 10 percent of its soft drinks through machines, but in Japan, Coke's 840,000 machines account for 55 percent of sales. Vending machine Coca-Cola costs \$1.10, while many bars and restaurants charge \$5.

It is difficult to find a street corner in Tokyo without a vending machine, and there are often clusters of five or 10 selling everything from "The Powerful" - an \$8 energy potion of carrots, garlic and Vitamin B - to a \$30 CD by Hoodie and the Blowfish.

But Japan's vending machines are coming under fire from the World Health Organization and teachers and parent groups upset that liquor, wine, beer and cigarettes are within



reach of any child tall enough to pop in coins.

Within four years, all coin-operated beer vending machines are to be abolished; already they are turned off between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. In their place, the national liquor association hopes to install beer machines that resemble bank ATMs. Only adults would be allowed to purchase the beer vending card. (The Washington Post)

Marco Polo may have faked it

IF Marco Polo spent years exploring China for the Mongol ruler Kublai Khan, as he claimed, why did his reports contain no reference to the Great Wall, to Chinese tea-drinking ceremonies or to the practice of binding girls' feet to keep them small?

In a new book, *Did Marco Polo Go to China?*, British librarian Frances Wood highlights the holes in Polo's account of his years in Asia and suggests he never made it to China.

"Like so many other great historical legends, the story is a myth," argues Wood, head of the Chinese section of the British Library.

Since 1295, when the adventurous Venetian merchant returned, ragged and exhausted, to his home city of Venice after 24 years on the road, he has been accepted as

the first European to travel right across Asia. He told his story to a writer with whom he shared a Genoese jail cell in 1299 after being taken prisoner in a sea battle. It became the travel epic *Description of the World*, which had a deep impact on other early voyages of discovery.

Columbus is known to have owned a copy and studied it closely before sailing off in 1492, thinking he was headed for Asia.

Polo said he set off for China in 1271 with his father and uncle, bearing a letter from the papal legate in Acre and a bottle of oil from the lamp that burns in Jerusalem's Holy Sepulcher. In 1275 they apparently arrived in Kublai Khan's summer palace in Shangdu. The Mongol leader's huge empire then spread from China to the Mediterranean.

According to Polo, Kublai Khan took a liking to him because of his lively conversation

and sent him on fact-finding tours across his newly conquered territory of China.

In her book, Wood says although Chinese sources of the period are littered with references to foreigners at the court of Kublai Khan, there is no mention of Marco Polo - or any Italians. And, although his report included long descriptions of Chinese cities and aspects of life there, he failed "to remark upon the cultivation of the Yangtze delta area" and ignored the Great Wall.

Wood concedes that in Mongol times the Great Wall may not have had an uninterrupted run, and may therefore not have seemed so phenomenal. And as a city dweller, she adds, Polo may not have been attuned to agricultural developments.

His defenders argue that women with bound feet would have been cloistered at home, invisible to a foreign visitor. But, says

Wood, Odoric of Pordenone, a missionary who visited China 20 years later, described them in detail.

Wood admits that, "if Marco Polo was not in China, there is, unfortunately, nothing to prove he was anywhere else."

Nevertheless, she concludes that "Marco Polo himself probably never traveled much further than the family's trading posts on the Black Sea and in Constantinople," pointing out that travelers who have tried to trace his footsteps have become lost at this point.

Wood argues that Marco Polo may have copied details from Persian or Arabic guidebooks on China that the Polo family collected on their travels. That, she says, may explain why his vocabulary and some of his descriptions - notably of large fowl in southern China - tally with those of some Persian and Arabic writers. (AP)

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 - GAS HEATER - NIS 100; gas stove NIS 200. In Tel Aviv. 09-7649903.
 - BACKPACK - 65L Karrimor, excellent condition, NIS 290. 04-8226820.
 - MEN'S SUITS - size 46-48, almost new, NIS 80 and NIS 120. 03-553889.
 - ROCKING CHAIR - wicker and hardwood, new in box, NIS 300. 02-375867, ext. 100 afternoons.
 - OVEN - in good condition, clean, NIS 280. 02-617652.
 - 2 WOOL CARPETS - 1 dark brown, 2.75 x 3.65, good condition; 1 moss green, 3.65 x 4.6, reasonable condition, NIS 300 for both. 02-769747, NS.
 - PAPERBACKS - assorted, NIS 5 each; Hello magazines, NIS 2 each; Royal Family magazines, backdated, NIS 5 each. 02-6514178, NS.
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 - REEL-TO-REEL - classical music tapes, NIS 2 each, NIS 40 the lot; Raleigh folding bike, excellent condition, NIS 250. 02-720017.
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 - 2 UNOPENED CDS FOR AGES 3-7 - educational games/activities, dictionary, NIS 75 each; silver bracelet with filigree decoration, NIS 150. 02-660443.
 - BOOKCASE - bamboo, NIS 100; bed, NIS 300. 02-860113.
 - 02-450081.
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 - BLACK VELVET JACKET - elegant, medium size, NIS 250. 02-438298.
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 - CARTOONS - 6 new NTSC videos of cartoons, Bugs Bunny, Popeye, etc., NIS 50 the lot. Water, 02-419963.
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 - FOAM MATTRESS - washable cover, NIS 70; blackboard, NIS 25; child's science sets (2 for NIS 50), new cheese board, NIS 20; big kettle, NIS 90. 02-855339, NS.
 - RAY BAN AVIATOR SUNGLASSES - with case, NIS 75. 02-273488.

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 - ANTIQUE FEWTER BOWL - small, to buy, 04-8557722.
 - PING-PONG TABLE - with or without paddles, urgent, not too big, Diana, 03-6390333 (days).
 - FILM PROJECTOR - super 8, 03-6931367.
 - CLASSIC COMPACT DISKS - in exchange for computer supplies, 09-823985, Cecil.
 - BED WITH MATTRESS - add other furniture in good condition for Russian ofdm, Will pick up in Haifa area, Nechama, 04-8382119.
 - CRATE SPEAKER - on ship to New York, 3-5 average-sized duffel bags, willing to pay, Avri, 02-874720.
 - COMPUTER 486 - for state religious special education class, Gail, 02-861198, NS; Noga, 02-865275, NS.
 - BLOOD PRESSURE METER - automatic, new, NIS 80; Casio digital diary 32 KB, electronic Hebrew/English dictionary, NIS 100; children's video, NIS 20. 02-6536808.
 - KEYBOARD/ORGAN - Yamaha PSR 214 or better, Avery, 02-6521988, NS.
 - PRIVATE SCHOOL - for children who are hyperactive (ADD), 02-834138, NS.
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 - STROLLER PLAYPEN - kibbutz-style square cage-type with 4 wheels. 02-6518624.
 - SYNAGOGUE FURNITURE - recycle your chairs and tables to a yeshiva that recycles souls, we could pay. 02-716841, day.
 - CHAGALL STAMPS - 02-634405, NS.
 - HAND LAWNMOWER - used. 02-859177.
 - STORAGE CABINET - metal, office. 02-6560561, NS.
 - ENGLISH LESSONS - for invalid for good pay. 02-252921.
 - ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA - Britannica Lanoar or Yavne Larousse. 02-788183, NS.
 - GAS OVEN/RANGE - in good condition, reasonably priced. 02-634389.
 - ALTO FLUTE - in good condition. Haia, 02-274316, NS.
 - METRONOME - for music student. 02-610023.
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National roots

SOME of the country's educators are dismayed by the cancellation of the matriculation examinations in Bible studies, Hebrew literature and history, announced earlier this week. The decision was made by lottery, as it is done every year, to the palpable delight of the students. Obviously, the idea of a tough final examination in these subjects, considered archaic and irrelevant by many of them, does not warm the cockles of their hearts.

Decrying the system which this year - by pure chance - knocked out the main liberal arts subjects from the examination schedule, some educators have suggested that the old system of compulsory exams in all subjects be restored, or that the tests be abolished in all subjects. Others have proposed that the liberal arts studies and the sciences should be drawn in separate lotteries, so that at least one of each would be included in the final test.

But focusing on the examination is an exercise in futility. It is doubtful that the students so overjoyed by the exemption would be better educated if they had to cram for an exam next month. Their estrangement from these studies is a deeper problem, touching on the fundamental philosophy of Israeli education.

From its inception, the Zionist movement has sought a spiritual anchor. For the movement's observant followers, religion provides the necessary faith and sense of identity. And as long as the fight for the ingathering and the establishment of the state was the main Zionist preoccupation, the secular majority found its raison

d'être in the struggle itself. The continuing threat of war, too, contributed to the feeling of idealism and purpose.

But the shrinking of the globe, the new technology and the seeming elimination of the immediate threat to the country's existence have made secular youth feel that they are more citizens of the world than children of a unique people. The education system, which in the secular government schools stresses universalism rather than Judaism, has encouraged what can only be described as cultural assimilation.

Nathan Jonathan, president of the Hebrew Authors Association, said on Sunday, "Everything that the enemies of Hebrew nationalism in the Diaspora, who tried to proot Hebrew culture, and everything that Jewish assimilation has done to us is now being inflicted on us, incredibly, by the captains of Hebrew education through the Ministry of Education."

And as leading author Haim Guri has put it, "A subject like the Bible, which was once the basis of Hebrew education and Hebrew literature, has become a rejected subject in many schools. A whole generation of Israelis is being reared without biblical roots, without the erudition in the book of books, without which there can be no understanding of any Hebrew literature throughout the ages."

This is not an advocacy of religiosity; it is a plea for an understanding of the Jewish nation's cultural roots. Without them, the next generations of Israelis will wonder why they are not living in Los Angeles.

South Africa plays it again

THIS week the new South Africa has seen its first major strike, increasing unrest in KwaZulu Natal and a collapsing currency as it heads into local elections next month. It could be said that democracy has at last arrived with a vengeance, two years after the first multi-party elections. So far, the provisional government in Pretoria seems to be weathering the squall of problems with equanimity and it deserves encouragement from the rest of the world rather than censure or predictions of gloom and despondency.

The current political tremors in South Africa actually are not new problems. They stem from issues which have been deferred for two years and are now coming home to roost as an important deadline approaches - the finalizing of a new constitution on May 8. The situation is a virtual replay of the cliff-hanger that preceded the post-apartheid election, when the main Zulu Inkatha party's threat to boycott the ballot became only the most serious of the wrangling and horse-trading necessary to get the great democratic show on the road. A ceremony is planned for final approval of the new constitution being drafted by the Constitutional Assembly - formed by both houses of parliament - and the politicians are at it again, trying to trip one another with loose ends.

The strike which halted much of industry Tuesday is directly related to the assembly's work. Employers want a legal provision allowing them to lock out strikers. The strike is a protest about the lockout clause, which the main

union federation Cosatu (the Congress of South African Trade Unions) sees as an attempt to enshrine apartheid-style inequality in the constitution.

Far more serious now, as it was also before the 1994 election, is the troublesome province of KwaZulu-Natal. The main thrust of the Inkatha Freedom Party remains unchanged - pushing for increased autonomy for the nine million Zulus. Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi held his boycott threat over the first election until less than a week before the ballot.

The ANC at the time agreed to international mediation on the autonomy issue. Such mediation never materialized, leading Buthelezi to boycott the Constitutional Assembly. Engaging in brinkmanship again, he has suggested Inkatha might rejoin the assembly if some agreement can be reached in time to ratify the new constitution. But a savage attack on the respected Zulu royal family last week by unknown assailants, in which a princess was killed and a queen seriously injured, has raised the temperature in KwaZulu Natal to the danger point.

It is here that President Nelson Mandela's diplomatic skills are most seriously and urgently needed if the constitutional deadline and the May 29 local elections in KwaZulu are not to unravel. Buthelezi remains the most tiresome game-player in South African politics. It is high time he realized that if united South Africa fails, what remains of Zulu independence in the tribal basket case of Africa won't be worth having anyway.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHAME!

Sir, - Every major news service and television network in the US told the same story: the Israelis are committing a massacre of innocent civilians in Lebanon and clothing it in rhetoric aimed at reelecting your prime minister. His words of regret ring with insincerity. The mismatch of forces is obvious. And the inability of the Lebanese government to act in any positive way under the shadow of Syrian occupation is patently obvious.

Do you wish a world of antisemitism? Haven't enough of your own children died?

How ironic that you she'll a UN safe haven on the day after we commemorated the Holocaust. How ironic that you, as a people, who have learned the bitter lessons of the bitter harvest of violence, must become like those who you have hated most.

FRED BONNER
Bethesda, Maryland.

'EYE ON THE MEDIA'

Sir, - The two letters published on April 2, "Eye on the Media" by Dr. Berthold Wylar, and "Please, stop it!" by L. Yuval, so accurately express my feelings on the content of the column that nothing need be added.

To be editor of a newspaper "regarded with contempt" by Max Hastings, one of the best journalists of our day, should, I feel, give you food for thought.

MRS. D. LEVI
Haifa.

INTOLERABLE SITUATION

Sir, - Should the present Israeli government draw a distinction between soldiers being killed in the "security zone" and rockets falling on Israel proper?

I believe that the present Israeli position of mildly responding to attacks which have been killing their soldiers and stronger responses when Katyushas fall upon Israel is a flawed policy. The duty of a government is to protect its soldiers on the front line at least as much as it protects its territory.

In fact, the "security zone" has become de-facto Israel as long as Israel is in control of the zone. Therefore, an attack against the zone is an attack against Israel. Failure to respond with sufficient force to make such attacks unbearable to the attackers has indicated to them that they can continue to ambush Israeli soldiers and plant mines and remote-controlled bombs at will. These terrorist successes have enabled them to augment the number of terrorists and increase the number of attacks. The acceleration of terrorist activity has increased the Israeli troop losses. This is an intolerable situation which Israel cannot and should not accept.

If Israel wants to remain in the "security zone," it must deliver an ultimatum to Syria and Lebanon. Either the terrorist attacks cease against Israel and the security zone immediately, or Israel will mount a massive attack until Syria and Lebanon are forced to control Hizbullah.

WILLIAM K. LANGFAN
Palm Beach, Florida.

POWERFUL WARNING

Sir, - Israel does not have the option of trading the Golan for peace, but only for a promise of peace. What happens if Israel gives up one-third of its water resources and the high ground protecting eastern Galilee, and Assad is then overthrown or dies? What are the chances that his successor will honor any promises he has made? How many young Israelis will die retaking the Golan after rockets fall on Galilee from a Golan returned to Syria?

Just after the Six Day War and a tour of the Golan, Richard Nixon stated that Israel must never give up the Golan. This statement is as true now as it was almost 30 years ago. What is happening along Israel's northern border carries a powerful message. I hope Israelis are reading it correctly.

JOSEPH R. ABRAHAMSON, M.D.
San Diego, California.

WOMEN SOLDIERS

Sir, - Apparently the person who wrote the headline for the article about women soldiers having a role in Operation Grapes of Wrath (April 18) is more enlightened than the reporter, who referred to the women soldiers three times in his article as "girls."

It is no wonder that young women in the army feel like second-class citizens when the media perpetuates the demeaning attitudes towards women which we all know are prevalent in Israeli society.

KATHY SALMANSON
Jerusalem.

HOW CAN ANYONE SAY WE DON'T GIVE BOTH SIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY?



Lebanon's true winners

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

One could be forgiven for thinking that two Grapes of Wrath operations took place. The triumphant victory cries of thousands of Hizbullah supporters in Lebanon, plus the fact that Syria now plays an enhanced role in the Middle East, cannot be denied.

In the Grapes of Wrath "B" version, Prime Minister Shimon Peres struts the stage as a heroic figure, declaring that the cease-fire was an "agreement of the first magnitude." Never mind that Hizbullah is free to kill Israeli soldiers at will in the security zone.

There is much trumpeting about the scrap of unsigned paper, squeezed from Syria's President Hafez Assad, which promises Hizbullah will be restrained. We recall a similar, worthless note which Hitler gave the British premier in 1938 promising "peace in our time." To borrow a phrase: Would you buy a secondhand car from a man who is not prepared to sign a contract?

With the terrorists virtually unscathed, one cannot argue with the Lebanese for saluting them as the victors of Operation Grapes of Wrath. Hizbullah's prestige has also been heightened by the IDF's failure to prevent it from firing hundreds of Katyushas into Israel. It makes the IDF military intelligence chief Moshe Ya'alon's claim that Israel never intended to disarm Hizbullah sound like a case of sour grapes. Worst of all, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's negotiations gave Hizbullah, for the first time, a cloak of US and Israeli legitimacy.

More disturbing yet is the analysis by diplomats in Damascus that Iran emerges as the ultimate victor of Peres's half-hearted war. This became clear when Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, flew to Damascus and spent several hours closeted alone with Assad. We were informed that as a result, the two men drew up a Damascus-Teheran pact.

In the past Assad had allowed Iran to train Hizbullah operatives in the Bekaa Valley. Arms flowed freely from Teheran to the terrorists operating against Israel. As a result, both Peres and President Bill Clinton berated Iran as being the puppet-masters of Hizbullah.

They knew, however, that it was Hafez Assad who exercised full control over Hizbullah. They remained silent in order not to anger him as they were trying desperately to persuade Assad to join the peace process. They chose to ignore his role in terrorism, as well as Syria being a major sup-

plier of drugs to the Western world.

"What impressed the Iranian mullahs," a diplomatic source told us, "was how Assad ordered Hizbullah to step up firing Katyushas into Israel. Assad guessed that Peres would do something dramatic in order not to lose the Israeli elections. He also surmised that Peres would not dare attack Syrian bases in the Bekaa Valley."

The Syrian leader was right. Because Grapes of Wrath was killing unarmed Lebanese civilians, Western leaders saw personal profit in becoming "peacemakers." They flocked to Syria as if it

Iran emerges as the ultimate victor of Peres's half-hearted war

were a major world power. Assad knew he held the whip hand. He even treated the "Big Satan's" man, Warren Christopher with disdain.

We were told that the first fruits of the Syrian-Iranian pact was the dispatch of another 4,000 rockets via Damascus for Hizbullah. In exchange for the mullahs' powerful backing, Iran has taken a leading role in the now-legitimized Hizbullah.

Iran is thus for the first time perched on Israel's northern border. Hand in hand with Syria, it now directly controls the terrorists' swelling ranks. This fits in with the overall Iranian plan to spread its Islamic revolution. It already has virtual full control over the Sudan, where there are large terrorist training camps. Its grip, like that of an octopus, is closing in around the entire Middle East, including of course Israel.

THANKS TO Bill Clinton's secret decision to allow Iran to send sophisticated weapons and instructors to Bosnian Muslims for the past two years, the mullahs are today the dominant force there. Iranian specialists are training young Muslims there as future terrorists. The aim is to spread the fundamentalist cause with bombs and mayhem into the heart of Europe when Teheran so decrees. Iran's dark shadow appears

everywhere. Its Hizbullah specialists today train Moslem youth in South Africa's Cape region. A Hizbullah gang was recently arrested on the Argentinian-Brazilian border and Iranian-made terrorist rockets were smuggled into Antwerp. A gang of theirs was caught in France recently.

Hovering in the background are the Russians. They stiffened Assad's resolve to rub the noses of Israel and the US in the dust. This is Moscow's major step to reestablish its role in the area.

The way in which Peres surrendered so rapidly to every Syrian condition for a cease-fire was based on purely personal political reasons, we were told by a top defense specialist.

"Peres already knew that, despite giving the impression that he would not hedge, Assad was worried that the relentless pressure of the IDF was beginning to finally take its toll on morale of the Hizbullah leadership. Assad sensed that the IDF might get its way by unleashing more of its power, as it was straining to do. Peres was told: 'If you continue for two or three days more, the nerve of the Hizbullah leadership and their Syrian masters is going to crack.'"

"Peres's reply was blunt and precise. He said 'I want to go to Washington, as planned, with a cease-fire agreement.' He desperately needed the photo-opportunity which Clinton had on offer in the White House to win over the Israeli electorate. It is a wish shared with Clinton who also has his own electoral ambitions.

This conversation with the defense specialist took place on the Thursday, 36 hours before Friday evening's cease-fire decision. To achieve the cease-fire, Peres asked Christopher to "reduce his demands to a minimum." He did so, even though it resulted in Israel making significant concessions to Assad.

Assad, his objective of becoming a major international figure achieved, agreed to a written document. Its purpose was to save Peres's face. For Israel has suffered a serious setback by his faulty, ill-conceived, politically motivated military venture in Lebanon. Assad believes that the Golan Heights will fall into his pocket when Peres wins the elections. In politics, as in business, there is no such thing as a free lunch.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

POSTSCRIPT

FORD UK Ltd, the British arm of Ford Motor Co., came under attack because it removed black faces from artwork in an advertising campaign.

Four black assembly workers found that their faces and hands had been colored white when a 1991 promotional picture was resurrected this year to illustrate literature for a credit-options scheme for car buyers.

Citing Henry Ford's apocryphal dictum about Model T Fords, "You can have whatever color car you want providing it's black," British legislator Tony Banks told parliament: "Now it would appear that Ford's new mission statement is that you can have any color worker you want at Ford providing he's white."

Ford withdrew the posters and scrapped thousands of copies of the booklet featuring the all-white line-up on its front cover.

Graphic artists superimposed white features over black ones on the negative for a campaign aimed for the Polish market, where there are few blacks, a company statement said.

Civics test

ALOUPH HAREVEN

Forty-eight years ago, the Declaration of Independence affirmed the historic right of the Jewish people to establish their own sovereign state in the Land of Israel. The declaration also affirmed that there will be complete equality of rights in Israel, regardless of gender, faith or race. And it called upon Israel's Arab citizens to preserve peace, and "to participate in the building of the state on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and state institutions."

Since then, perhaps the best-kept public secret in Israel is that civil peace has in effect prevailed between the country's Jewish and Arab citizens. Senior officials, both in the General Security Service and the police, repeatedly reaffirm that over 99.9 percent of Israeli Arabs have fulfilled the demand the Declaration of Independence made on them.

It is the state itself that has failed to keep its part. Even today, Israeli Arabs have not yet become part of all state institutions. Although the outgoing government has done more than any of its predecessors to include Arab citizens in the civil service, there is still not a single Arab civil servant in the President's Office (which has some 50 employees), nor are Arab citizens employed in most government ministries, nor on the directorates of most state-owned companies.

Parallel to this, all Israeli governments - except the outgoing one - practiced severe discrimination in the allocation of resources to Arab localities. Many Jewish-Arab coexistence organizations are seeking to speed up the achievement of effective civic equality, but in many fields the pace is still slow. As a result, there exists a considerable gap in development between most Arab and Jewish cities and villages.

Given these circumstances, what should we expect of Israeli Arabs?

They are not Jewish and it is absurd to demand that they integrate into the Jewish people. And yet, nearly all of them have become fluent in Hebrew. There are more Arabs in Israel fluent in Hebrew than there are Hebrew-speaking Jews in the Diaspora.

Thus, they cope daily with two identities, that of being both Palestinian Arabs and Israeli citizens. We cannot deny them their

What should we expect of Israeli Arabs?

right to declare their ethnic identity any more than we have the right to deny Jews in other countries the right to proudly proclaim that they are a part of the Jewish people. At the same time, we must recognize that Israeli Arabs are Israeli citizens.

DIFFERENT SOCIETIES test citizenship in different ways. In a totalitarian country, fascist, communist or fundamentalist, the supreme test is one of faith and opinion. Any deviation from the proclaimed ideology is often perceived as treason. In a democracy, citizenship is an empowerment to a rich cluster of civic rights, including the right to have and express an opinion of one's own, even if it differs substantially from the opinion of the majority. But citizenship is also empowerment to implement civic duties - of which the most important is respect for the law.

This then is the test of being a citizen - for all, and not only for Arab citizens: Do they, or do they not, act within the boundaries of the law?

Provided that there is no direct incitement to violence, all are free to feel, think and say whatever they wish. All have the right to be angry, the right to be critical, the right of dissent. The major test is not of opinion, but of behavior.

It is true that a few Arab citizens - and also a few Jews - have acted against the state. For this they were brought to trial, and sentenced to prison. Should we judge both Jewish and Arab communities by these very few cases, and generalize that "they are all like that"? Or should we, on the contrary, rejoice that civil peace has so far prevailed between the great majority of Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens? And ask ourselves how we can enhance civil peace in the future?

The writer is codirector of Sikkay - The Association for the Advancement of Equal Opportunity.

سكاي للصالح

THE JERUSALEM
POST

TRAVELER

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1996

GUADALAJARA

Mariachi was Invented Here



Photos by Stanton H. Patty

Above: A balloon vendor finds a customer in the Tlaquepaque area of Guadalajara. Tlaquepaque, a fancy neighborhood for the elite of Guadalajara during Spanish-colonial days, now is a popular shopping district for travelers.

Right: Guadalajara's 17th-century cathedral, with its entertaining mix of architectural styles, is the city's centerpiece. The cathedral took 150 years to build during Spanish-colonial times.

Below: A youngster pursues pigeons in the Plaza de Armas in the historic center of Guadalajara. Sunny Guadalajara is Mexico's second-largest city.



By Stanton H. Patty

It was about 4 o'clock on a spring afternoon in old Guadalajara. Come to think of it, it's always spring in this stylish city of commerce and culture.

There was mariachi music on the breeze. Stabbing trumpet notes and rippling guitars. Sentimental stuff.

Late-afternoon diners lingered in the lime-green light of a shady Tlaquepaque plaza. The band played on.

Tlaquepaque ("Tla-kay-PAH-kay"): It's where mariachi was invented, back when Guadalajara grandees made this fashionable neighborhood their summertime gathering place.

Now Tlaquepaque—a 20-minute taxi ride from downtown hotels—is said to offer the best shopping in all of Mexico.

We're talking fine art here, everything from hand-blown glass to designer fashions. Many of the 18th-century mansions of Guadalajara's first families have been turned into workshops and galleries.

Pricey? Yes. A friend had her eye on an elegant chandelier, for about \$200 U.S. And then there was a papier-mache fish, signed by a famous artist, Sergio Bustamante, for \$75.

But there are bargains to be had, too. Our friend found stoneware cups—to replace her chipped set of Tlaquepaque cups at home—for only \$1 apiece.

We found a papier-mache clown for \$4. It was not signed by the artist.

The preferred procedure here in Tlaquepaque, unless one is a dedicated shopper, is to stroll the pleasant pedestrian mall along Calle Independencia. Buy a few things for the folks back home, then get into a mariachi mood.

Find a table, order a local beer (Tlaquepaque dining is expensive) and pretend it's siesta time. A roaming mariachi group will offer a tune for a small gratuity, or you can play cheap skate by avoiding eye contact and enjoy borrowed music from other tables.

The air is warm. The beer is cold. The music is sweet. *Oh! This is a city to love.*
Guadalajara (pop. 5 million) is Mexico's second-largest

city. Despite explosive growth, it still is a classy place, with stately colonial buildings from Spanish times, broad boulevards and plazas, art galleries, parks and fine dining.

And then there is the climate. Average daytime high temperature here, in any season, is about 75 degrees. Bougainvillea, poinsettias, geraniums and other showy plants bloom with the exuberance of everlasting spring.

Weather and a dollar-stretching living style have made this a prime area for American and Canadian retirees. Estimates range from 30,000 to 40,000 Norte Americanos living around Guadalajara.

The Lake Chapala district, about 35 miles southwest of Guadalajara, is the major retirement center. Several tour operators here offer day trips to the charming village of Ajijic and other lakeside communities.

...it's always spring in this stylish city of commerce and culture. There was mariachi music on the breeze. Stabbing trumpet notes and rippling guitars. Sentimental stuff.

While high living on the cheap here isn't as cheap as it used to be, there still are incentives.

A friend wrote recently from sunny Ajijic: "Life here is just great. So far this month, we have spent just over \$100 on food and drink, and that includes entertaining guests at several dinners."

"We have a maid who comes in three times a week for a total of 15 hours for \$14. The gardener works three days for a total of 12 hours for \$13 a week. Heck, I can even afford to drink here!"

"Come see us. We have a guest room that is about 10 steps from the pool."

Can you drink the water?
"Of course. We use bottled water."
Tempting, for sure.

But what about life without grandkids?

"Your call."

Mind if we come just for a visit?

"When can you be here? We'll have a party."

Our friend, incidentally, is from Alaska. Now you know why he brags about Guadalajara's fine weather.

Mariachi music isn't the only convivial thing native to Guadalajara and the state of Jalisco. This also is the home of Tequila.

Tequila is a region, just as Cognac is France. And there is a town called Tequila, about 35 miles northwest of Guadalajara.

And so Tequila town (pop. 30,000) is another favorite excursion destination from Guadalajara. Several distilleries there offer tours—and free samples.

Before imbibing, you might want to see the scary mural at the Sauza tequila factory.

The mural tells the legend of how tequila was born of a lightning strike; it also shows the awful things that overcome revelers when they drink too much of the fiery brew.

Tequila's basic ingredient is a "honey" extracted from cactus, preferably a cactus called blue agave. It grows horizon-to-horizon, like a blue haze, between Guadalajara and Tequila.

Some honey! Incidentally, Tequila and Tlaquepaque may be related. Legend has it that the art of glass-blowing in Tlaquepaque came about because the region needed a steady supply of bottles for its tequila production.

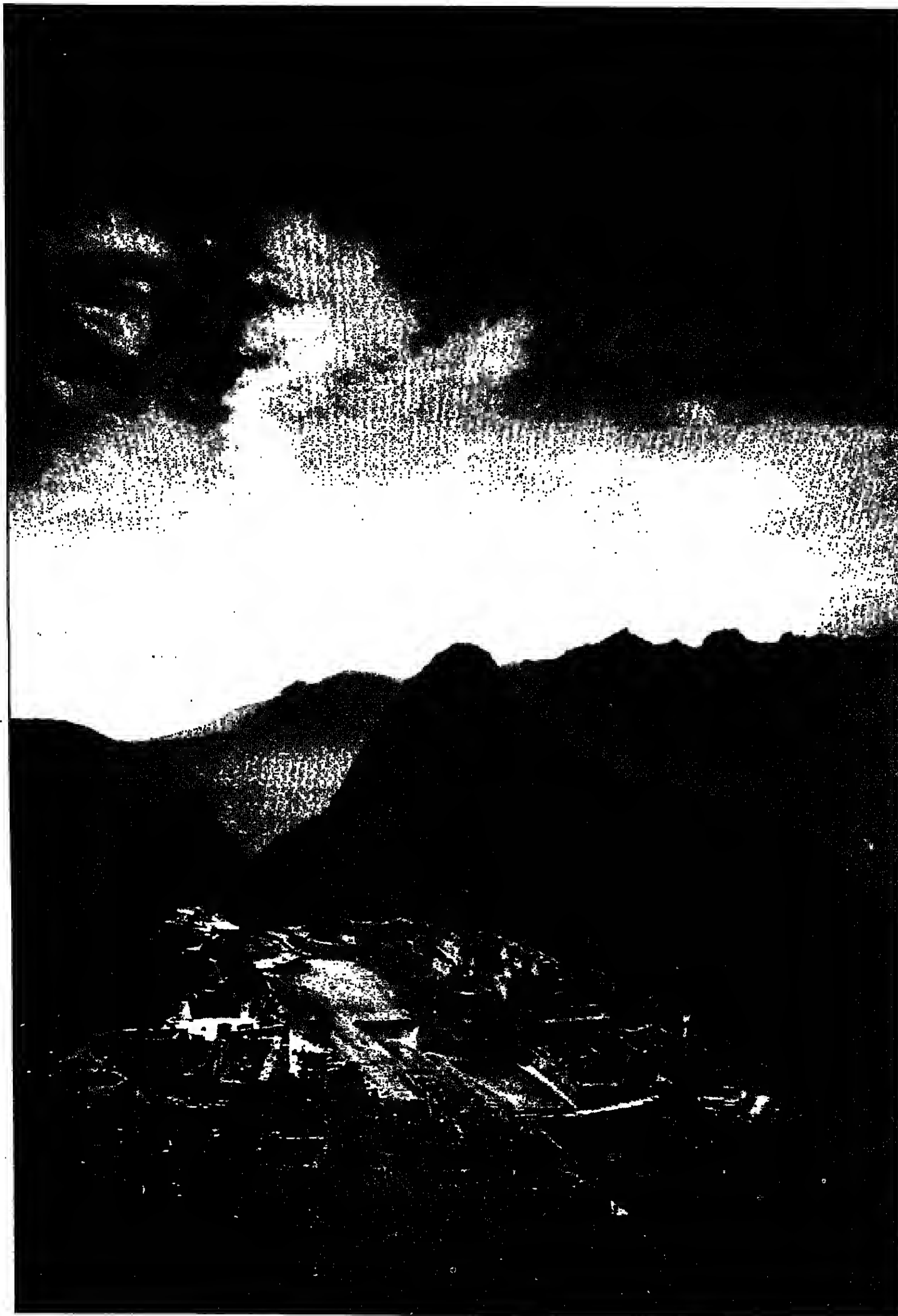
How's that for trickle-down economics? If you can tear yourself away from Tlaquepaque and mariachi melodies, late afternoon is the time to tour the old colonial heart of Guadalajara.

Starting point is the massive, 17th-century cathedral, the city's centerpiece. The cathedral, a guide says, took 150 years to build.

By the look of things, with a mix of architectural styles, *Continued on page 4*

Machu Picchu Under Repair

The Glory and the Grandeur Succumbing to Tourism



Classic overlook at Machu Picchu: "The most splendid integration of landscape and architecture I have ever seen."

Photos by Galen Rowell

By Galen Rowell

Universal Press Syndicate

Perhaps the Incas planned it this way. With each step away from the arid highlands of Peru's Andes into moist, forested Amazonia, a sense of times past, of spirituality, became stronger. On the edge of these two worlds, where lizards bask in the sun and orchids bloom in the jungle, they had perched their sacred town, hidden behind green-clothed monoliths.

As we walked the last downhill mile, the jungle and orchids grew more profuse, the road receded from view, and then we were there, at the classic overlook of the fabled "Lost City of the Incas," Machu Picchu.

Stretched out before us lay the most splendid integration of landscape and architecture I have ever seen. The site had created a bold coherence between the intentional design of a stone city and the natural splendor of sheer rock walls rising out of the jungle.

At that moment the intangible rewards of adventure travel became clearly defined. Virtually every culture breeds pilgrims who voluntarily leave the comforts of their normal routines to experience hardships without hope of material gain. Their intentions and rewards are personal—a heightened sense of joy and understanding of a specially chosen destination, nothing more.

But my exultation was tempered by something I'd seen on the approach to the city. At the Sun Gate of Intipunku, a notch floored by a walled plaza, painted white numbers glared from a nearby stone wall. The markings, obviously of this century and not of Inca origin, were vaguely disturbing and puzzling. The solution to this mystery would come later and fill me with dismay.

Machu Picchu is inaccessible by road. Visitors walk in or arrive by narrow-gauge railroad from Cuzco, the old Inca capital. Many young travelers hike the trail on their own, but most hire porters, whether it be one extra person to share the weight or many for an organized group, where each trekker's gear is carried and all camps and meals are prepared. Ours, booked months earlier in the United States, was in the latter category—10 travelers plus porters—and we planned to return by train.

Before setting off on the Inca Trail, we visited Inca ruins at Sacsayhuaman and Pisac and spent a night in Ollantayambo, populated by Quechua Indians in colorful native dress, in the Urubamba Valley, "the sacred

valley of the Incas." Ollantayambo, along the railroad to Machu Picchu, is the closest modern counterpart of a living Inca village, and most of our porters lived here or nearby with their families and herds of llamas.

There are no towns along the Inca Trail today where we might find an echo of the ancient times. The trail, a mosaic of hand-carved granite blocks laid down more than 400 years ago, twists 32 miles through jungle and three mountain passes. It begins at 8,000 feet in the gorge of the Urubamba River and climbs rapidly upward out the moist forest into open grasslands at 13,500 feet at the first pass. From there on, secluded Inca ruins begin to appear in the high cloud forest between the passes.

Campsites are few, so several groups usually end up pitching their tents in close proximity.

On our fourth and final night on the trail, we were awakened by the sounds of whispers outside our tent. I unzipped the door and saw two dark silhouettes within arm's reach.

"Café con leche?" a voice asked.

Two of our porters were passing out mugs of coffee mixed with hot milk to wake us before sunrise.

As the eastern sky turned crimson behind icy peaks, the rest of our party emerged from surrounding tents to capture this last dawn before reaching Machu Picchu, where we would spend two nights in a hotel beside the ruins.

On a ridge above camp we were joined by Francisco, one of our porters, wearing a native Quechua poncho and earflapped woolen cap. The vivid reds in his ornate fabrics came alive when first light struck him standing on a ridge in front of the icy pyramid of 20,000-foot Salcantay. While Francisco played his Andean flute in the cloud forest beneath the peaks, I imagined his Inca ancestors standing on that spot, when the trail was the "royal highway" to the sacred town.

Within an hour, breakfast was served on a clothed table. While we ate botocakes, bowls of fruit and sipped a final cup of café con leche, the crew broke camp and prepared to hit the trail again.

The name of this last campsite is Puyupatamarca, Cloud-level Town, in the Quechua tongue of the ancient Incas and modern Indians. It was coined by Hiram Bingham, an American amateur archaeologist who found the Inca Trail grown over and without modern residents after he visited Machu Picchu in 1911.

Bingham was braving the jungle in search of the lost city of Vilcabamba, the Inca's legendary last refuge from invading Spaniards. He was led to the partially exposed ruins of Machu Picchu by local peasants who were quite aware of its existence. In fact, 19th century Andean explorer Antonio Raimondi had drawn a map with the words "Machu Picchu" in the correct location.

Whether or not Bingham was the discoverer of Machu Picchu, he was certainly the revealer and popularizer of its existence to the developed world.

Only in recent decades has it become clear that Machu Picchu is the finest surviving example of the late imperial Inca style of architecture, as yet untainted by European influences as opposed to it being a town built hastily in an unlikely, well-hidden location by Incas fleeing the Spanish invasion of the 1530s.

Much of the site's significance is based on its improbably fine construction and endurance over



Orchids in increasing profusion crowd the trail on the final approach to Machu Picchu.

Mexico's Marvels

Mexico Travel Advisors has developed a series of affordable tours to showcase the country's natural wonders.

The three-night "Monarch Butterfly Tour" begins in Michoacan's capital city of Morelia, about 190 miles northwest of Mexico City. The itinerary includes a tour of the colonial city and a full-day visit to the old town of Angangueo, which is a sanctuary for the butterflies on their annual migration south from Canada and the United States. The tour is priced at \$425 per person.

MTA's one-day whale-watching tour departs from Loreto to Magdalena Bay off Baja California to watch the California gray whales at play. The tour is priced at \$186 per person.
The Copper Canyon of the Sierra Madre

Mountains is four times larger than the Grand Canyon, and it's deeper. The best way to see the canyon is to take the Chihuahua of Pacific Railroad from Los Mochis to Chihuahua to cross 403 miles of track, passing through 86 tunnels and over 39 bridges. The five-night Copper Canyon tours start at \$660 per person, including overnight stops at hotels.

FYI: MTA North American Headquarters, 1717 N. Highland Avenue, Los Angeles, California, 90028; (800) 876-4582.

Catch of the Sea

Anglers can take advantage of a four-day "Great Catch" package at the Melia San Lucas in Los Cabos, Mexico.

In addition to accommodations, the 144-room resort organizes a full-day sport-fishing expedition in Cabo San Lucas Bay. The area is known for its world-class deep-sea fishing. Accompanied by a skipper and experienced deckhand, guests will sail aboard a fully equipped cabin cruiser stocked with custom fishing tackle, beverages and lunch. At the end of the day, anglers enjoy dinner for two (hopefully including their own catch).

"Great Catch" is priced at \$349 per person from April 8 through December 21.

FYI: Melia San Lucas, (800) 33-MELIA.

Travel Tidbits

Mexico remains one of the most affordable travel destinations. And as the editors of Travel

Smart newsletter note, silver is one of the most popular souvenirs sought by tourists because of its beauty and affordability.

To be sure you get high-quality merchandise:

• Don't purchase jewelry from sidewalk vendors or border souvenir shops, which often sell cheap gray alloy called *alpacas*.

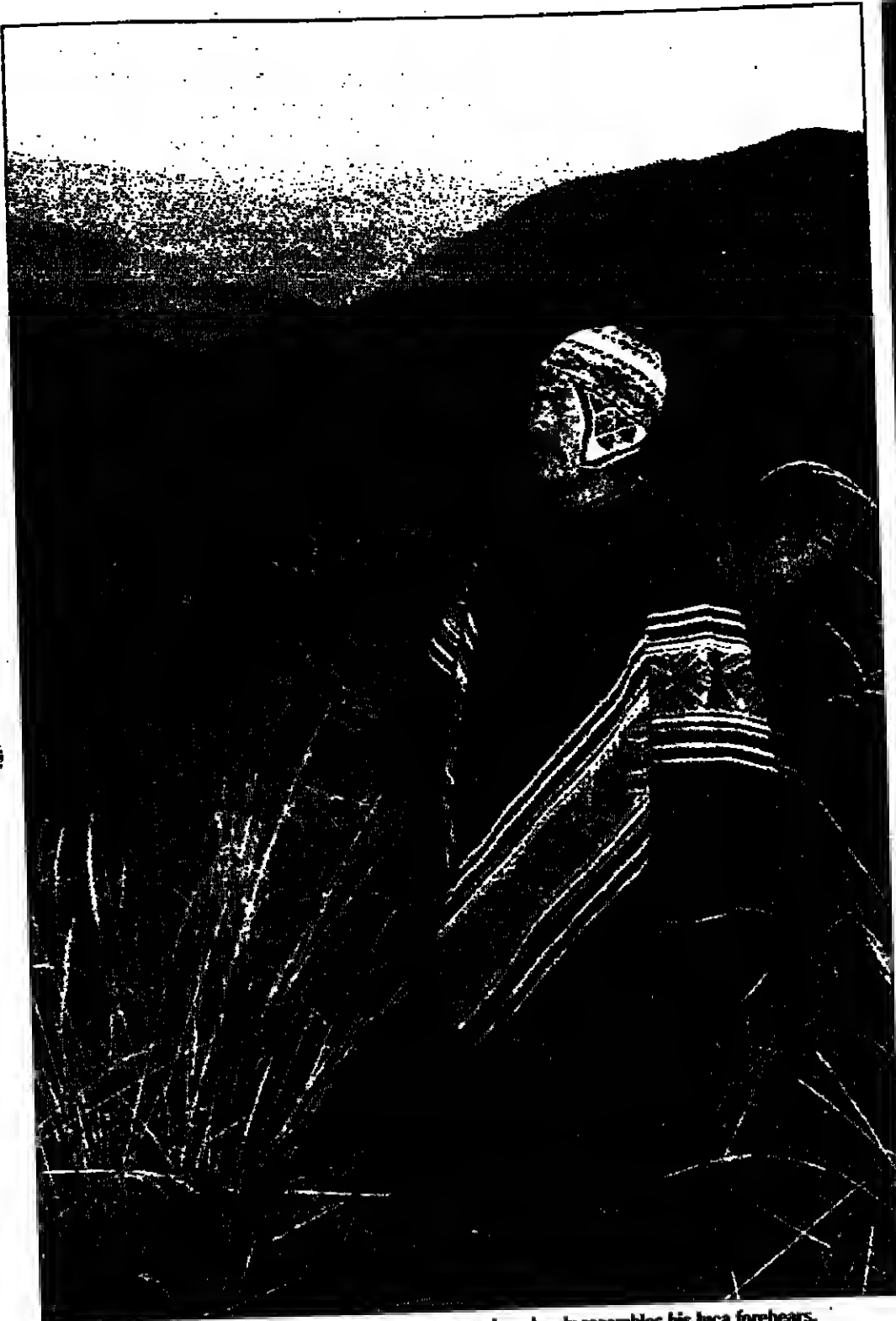
• Buy silver from a reputable store or dealer.

• Look for these stamps on quality pieces: 925, which means sterling silver; "Mexico" or "Made in Mexico"; the initials of the manufacturer and city of origin, such as "T" for Taxco.

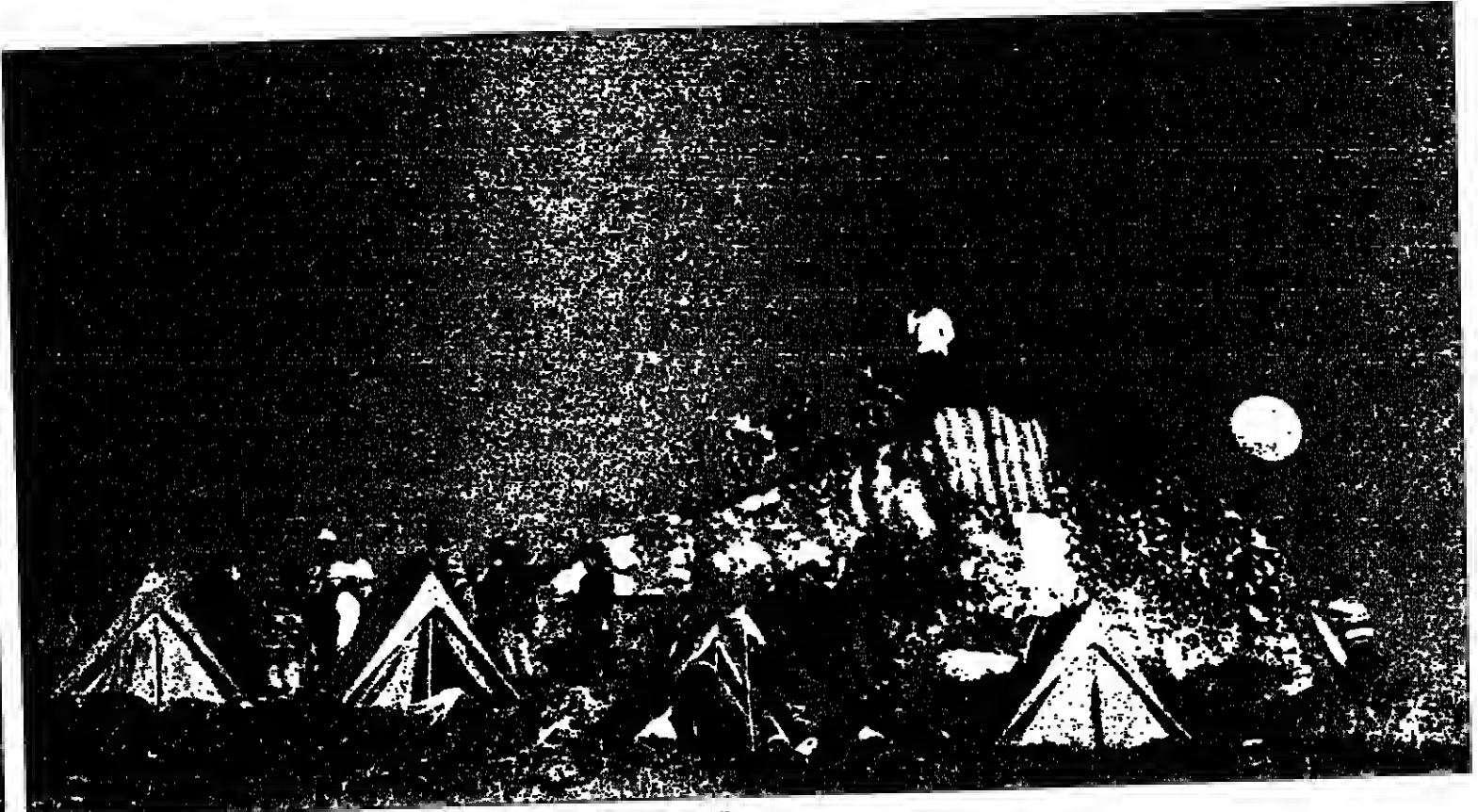
Travel Tips is compiled by Allison Ashton, Copyist News Service.

مكتبة الامير

air



A porter, Francisco, in his colorful native Quechua poncho, closely resembles his Inca forebears.



Hikers stir and camp comes slowly to life as a new day begins on the Inca Trail.

the centuries. The Inca stonework took decades to complete with a reverence for precision far beyond that of modern stone masons. Blocks weighing many tons with up to 12 sides have been fitted together without mortar so perfectly that I could rarely fit so much as a knife blade between them.

The walls of Machu Picchu have stood well against the forces of nature, but they are succumbing to the influence of Disneyland. Like the Spaniards on the track of the mythical gold of the Incas, the Peruvian tourist industry is seeking to maximize the extraction of its modern counterpart—foreign currency—from the lost city.

The mystery of the painted numbers on the stones of Intipunku was solved when I came across government workers in the process of rebuilding parts of the ruins. Using mud for mortar, they were fitting together an assemblage of stones beginning at ground level with numbered ones carefully removed from crumbling walls. So far, so good, but the tops were a fabrication of added stones from the surrounding area, completing what the original structure "might" have looked like.

A supervisor had a schematic of numbered rocks as they had been taken down. It ended with the incom-

plete jagged outline of a typical ruin, but the reconstructed wall concluded with a perfect turret of unnumbered rocks several feet higher than what Bingham had uncovered. Behind that turret was another rebuilt turret, and another, and another.

Their simple life and carefree happiness made me feel lucky to have experienced the Inca Trail before it, too, becomes more contrived for tourism.

The workers were building a virtual Machu Picchu. When I asked the supervisor why, he gestured toward hundreds of people coming into the ruins who had just arrived on the morning train and replied, "Turismo."

The Peruvian government, its economy still reeling from civil unrest, is mimicking the success of orderly American theme parks and re forging Machu

Picchu into a caricature of its former glory.

When it came time to leave, I felt I'd had too much of hotels and crowds, but not enough of the Inca Trail. After learning that our train would not depart from Machu Picchu until 3 p.m. the next day, I decided to start out at dawn and run the trail in reverse. Being an experienced mountain runner, I was confident I could complete the 32 miles and 9,000 feet of elevation gain, but less sure about reaching the train on time.

As I ran past the far smaller, but unretouched Inca ruins that rise out of the jungle beside the Inca Trail, they took on a new significance. Like photographs in a scrapbook, they represented visions out of the past that could be trusted. Machu Picchu, however, is becoming more like one of those digitally manipulated advertising images in which every reality is suspect.

On a misty morning, I reached the railroad with hours to spare. A Quechua family invited me into their hut for a cup of tea and a bowl of fruit. Their simple life and carefree happiness made me feel lucky to have experienced the Inca Trail before it, too, becomes more contrived for tourism.

Galen Rowell is a photojournalist whose work appears frequently in Life and National Geographic

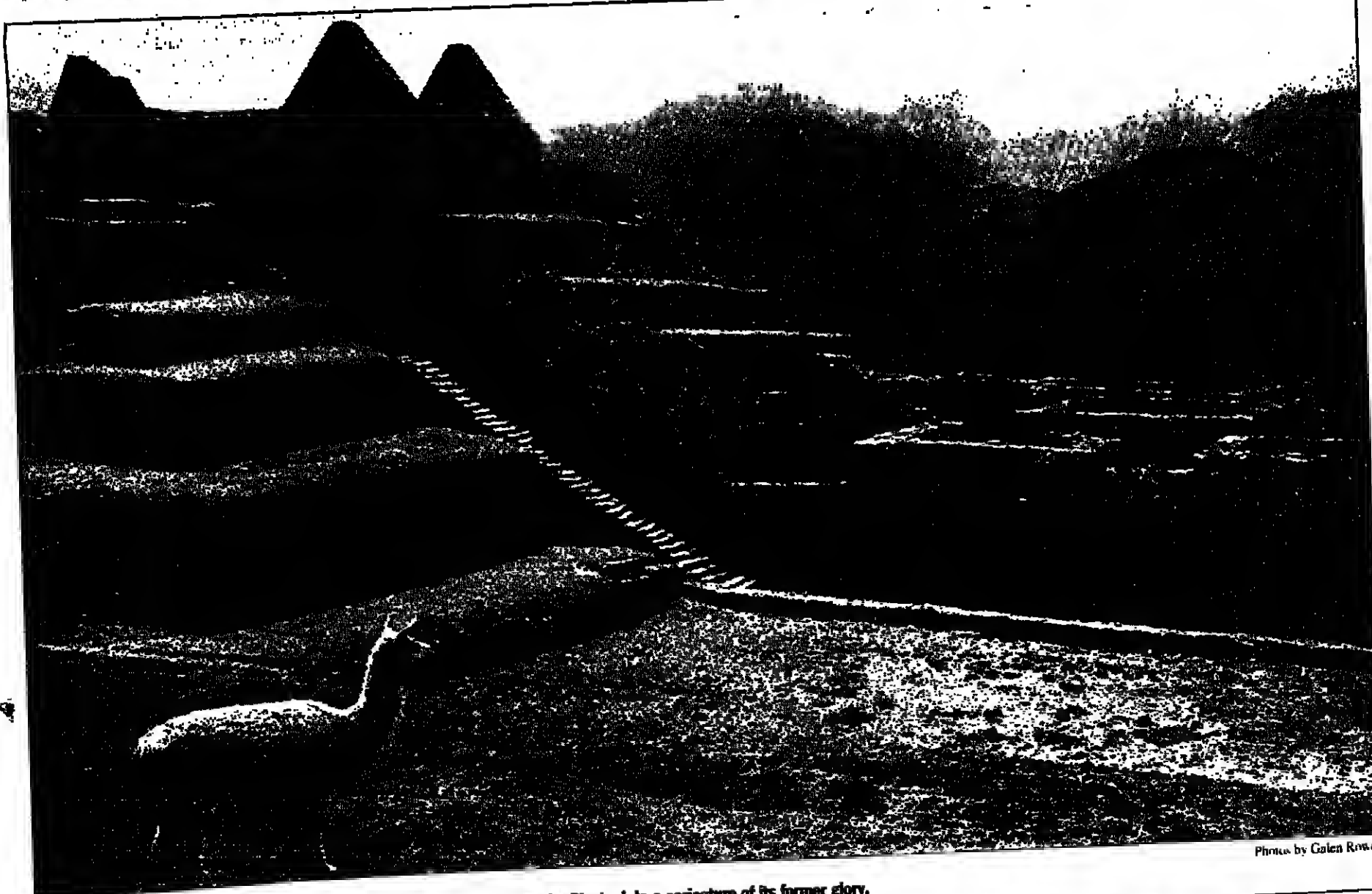


Photo by Galen Rowell

Llama takes its ease below fabricated turrets which threaten to turn Machu Picchu into a caricature of its former glory.

IF YOU GO

Before setting out, we'd been concerned about guerrilla terrorism in Peru, even though we'd heard it had ended with the capture of the leader of the Shining Path in 1992. But we weren't satisfied until a returning wilderness guide reported that the level of personal safety seemed similar to that in Nepal or India, where we had trekked many times without problems.

A SAMPLING OF OUTFITTERS

RUNNING TRIPS TO MACHU PICCHU:

- Geographic Expeditions, 2627 Lombard Street, San Francisco, California 94123; or (001) 415/922-0448; 12 days, \$2,200, not including airfare.
- Mountain Travel Sobek, 6420 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, California 94530; (001) 510/527-8100; up to 15 days, \$1,700, not including airfare.
- Overseas Adventure Travel, 625 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138; (001) 617/876-0533; 15 days, \$2,490 includes airfare from Miami.
- Wilderness Travel, 801 Allston Way, Berkeley, California 94710; (001) 510/548-0420; 12 days, \$1,995, not including airfare.

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Glittering Silver Jewelry Draws Shoppers to Mexico

By Ron Butler

Much of Mexico's tourism appeal is its fabulous shopping—colorful ceramics, baskets, serapes, folk art, fine art, carvings, onware, textiles, leather goods, anques, glasswork, pottery. But what dazzles visitors most is Mexico's superb silverwork. Reflecting the light of centuries, Mexico's silver jewelry and decorative arts are honed and polished with an infusion of rich and diverse cultures. Ancient Mayan monkey figures dance in liting symmetry across the broad band of one bracelet, while another shows the influence of classical Spain. A necklace of large silver beads is stunning in its modern day simplicity. A gleaming table piece shaped in the head of a Toltec warrior, a vase styled in slender elegance.

Mexico is the world's leading producer of silver, mining over one-half of the world's supply. The early Aztecs of central Mexico and the Aztec and Mixtec people of Oaxaca considered silver more precious than gold. It was harder to extract and more difficult to work. The Aztecs, never at a loss for descriptive phrases, described silver as *itzacoctuitl*, excrement of the gods.

Mexico's early Indian craftsmen produced exquisitely detailed works of art by using the lost-wax method: a thin coating of wax is poured over a mold, etched and detailed with a stylus and then burned away with the molten metal that forms the final object.

Rich silver mines opened the interior of Mexico to Spanish colonization. In some places, the Spanish shooed their horses with silver because it was more plentiful than iron which had to be shipped from Spain. A caballero's status was measured by the amount of silver he lavished on his horse—saddle decorations, bridal, bit and stirrup. And on himself—

hatband, buckle, spurs and buttons. In its heyday, Guanajuato (birthplace of Diego Rivera), about five hours north of Mexico City, was one of the great mining centers of the world. For centuries the export of silver dominated the Mexican economy.

Taxco, about a third of the way between Mexico City and Acapulco, today forms the epicenter of the nation's silver production. Although its mines have long been depleted, the town's 12,000 residents are almost all involved in one way or another with the crafting, sale and distribution of silver. Tourism provides the customers who come in droves to the picture-pretty mountain town. Taxco clings to the Sierra Madre hillsides in a network of narrow, cobbled streets lined with white stuccoed houses with red-tiled roofs. Tropical flowers tumble in clusters from balconies and across shaded walkways.

Reflecting the light of centuries, Mexico's silver jewelry and decorative arts are honed and polished with an infusion of rich and diverse cultures.

The center of town is the magnificent church of Santa Prisca, a Baroque sanctuary whose alters are ablaze with carved and gilded decoration. It was financed in the 18th century by silver baron Jose de la Borda in thanks for the untold millions of pesos that poured out of the Taxco-area mines, making him one of the wealthiest men of his day.

It was an American entrepreneur, William Sprattling (a former Tulane University professor), who began the town's silver workshops in the early part of the century. He hired local youths, taught them silver-

smithing and was among the first to integrate pre-Columbian designs into modern jewelry. Today, dozens of these shops are still open and it is here that skilled artisans, many whose fathers began as barefoot apprentices to Don Guillermo, as Sprattling came to be known, cast some of the most beautiful silver pieces in the world. Sprattling's former home, just behind the Santa Prisca, is now a museum. Its displays tell the story of the silver industry in Taxco and contains dozens of prized pieces.

Taxco has more than 200 silver shops. Most of the better ones are clustered around the zocalo, or main plaza, and on Avenida Kennedy which runs through the center of town. Antonio Pineda (Plaza Borda) and Los Castillo (Plazuela Bernal 10) are considered by many to be the best. La Mina, a silver shop located in a former silver mine, is certainly the most unique.

Taxco holds an annual silver fair, usually during the last week in November or the first week in December, with prizes going to the best silversmiths who come from far and wide to show their wares. Accompanying cultural events include performances by popular radio and television stars, good food, music and fireworks. With its historic church, flowering plazas and picturesque buildings, Taxco was declared a national colonial landmark in 1928, sealing the characteristic appeal of the city that remains unchanged to this day.

Zacatecas in north-central Mexico, capital of the state of the same name, was another major silver producer. In the 1540s, it was the second largest city in New Spain, with more than 50 silver mines operating. When not enough Indians could be forcibly recruited to work the mines, African slaves were imported.

Mining still shapes the character of the city. Mining car tours deep into the El Eden Mine, once one of the richest in Mexico, are popular, as is "El Malacate," a discotheque located 700 feet underground, and yet still noisy beyond all comprehension.

The Centro Platero de Zacatecas is a local silver center and school housed in a 300-year-old Spanish



Photos by Ron Butler

The bulk of Mexican silverwork is handmade, hand-polished and proudly worn by its natives.



Silver is plentiful in Mexico and the affordable jewelry is what often keeps tourists coming back for more.

colonial building where students from all over the country come to learn the principles of silver production, design and craftsmanship. The center plans to establish more than 200 classrooms by the year 2000, providing training and jobs for 1,000 or more silversmiths and apprentices.

Cosmopolitan Mexico City is also a major marketplace for top quality silver. Tan (Amberes 70), in the trendy Zona Rosa, is considered the Tiffany of Mexico. Customers are greeted at the door with a red carnation and a bag of chocolates wrapped in silver foil. It's the place to go for the finest in flatware, candlesticks, bowls, picture frames and jewelry, all at prices to match the store's and the neighborhood's snobbish appeal. Other outstanding jewelry shops in the Zona Rosa are Los Castillo (Amberes 41), Joyas de Plata (Copenhague 31), Paul Flato (Amberes 21) and Kimberly (Niza and Hamburg).

Madero, a colonial street with shade trees, benches and graceful lamp posts in the old part of Mexico City, near the Zocalo, used to be known as the "Street of Silversmiths." Many of the old shops remain and others can be found along the adjoining pedestrian malls, but the area lacks the cachet of today's more fashionable Paseo de la Reforma and the Zona Rosa. Most of the shops along the Street of Silversmiths now offer competitive prices and the owners are open to discreet bargaining.

Not for sale in most jewelry shops, but much in vogue by collectors are "milagros," small, delicate silver pieces shaped like a heart, hand, arm, leg, kidney or some other afflicted part of the human body. The pious attach them to the robes or skirts of religious statues in church in hopes of divine intervention, a cure. Milagros are often sold outside of churches. They can also be found in flea markets and antique shops.

When buying silver in Mexico, whether a simple pair of earrings or a large dinner platter, look for the

"sterling" or "925" stamp required by law. Government regulations are rigid.

Sterling must contain .925 parts or more of pure silver and .075 or less of alloy (usually copper in Mexico), to give it strength. Expensive collector pieces may contain additional hallmarks as well, a Mexican eagle or the name and stamp of the silversmith. Always shop at reputable stores and avoid street and dockside peddlers unless you're in the market for low-priced junk jewelry that looks pretty but in time may turn your wrist, fingers or earlobes, the color of bright, fresh lime.

Unlike the products of England, Denmark and Sweden, the bulk of Mexican silverwork is handmade and hand-polished. Occasional flaws and striations only add to its luster.

Ron Butler is a freelance travel writer.

IF YOU GO

Stores selling silver are known as platerias in Spanish. Jewelry stores are joyerias.

Bargaining is expected in markets and shopping stalls where prices aren't posted, but never bargain in the manner jewelry shops and only even so discreetly in those less fashionable.

Yane, Mexico's leading silversmiths, has several locations in Mexico City, including Amberes 70, in the Zona Rosa, and Edgar, in the Zona Rosa. Retail outlets can also be found in some of the more upscale hotels, such as the Camino Real.

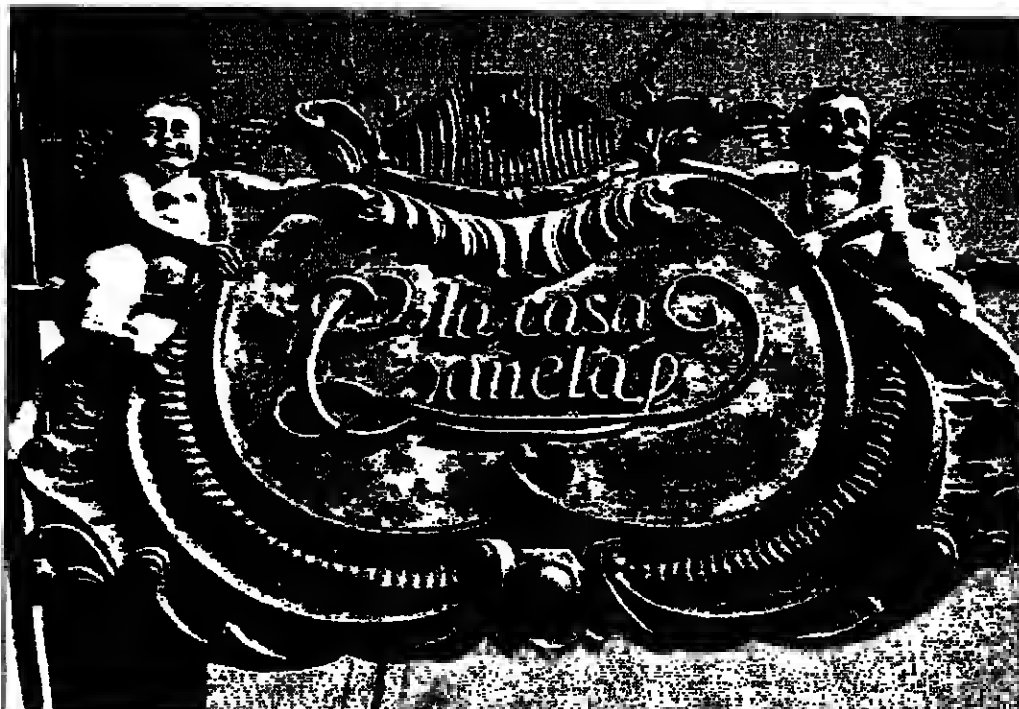
Guadalajara From page 1

ranging from Renaissance to Gothic to Baroque and Byzantine, it still isn't finished. But somehow the hodgepodge of domes and spires works with a kind of

four-part harmony.

Perhaps it is the cathedral's placement by the impressive Plaza de Armas, with its ornate, wrought-iron bandstand, that pleases the eye.

Children chase pigeons across the plaza. Old men doze on benches. Church bells ring.



Photos by Stanton H. Patty

An ornate shop sign welcomes visitors to Tlaquepaque, Guadalajara's fashionable shopping district.

You're all set to take a photograph when a Guadalajara prankster walks up, grins and says, "Say cheese!"

"How's my English, not so bad?" he asks. Across the street, in the Palacio de Gobierno, is another must-see attraction—the powerful and angry murals of the late Jose Clemente Orozco that depict Mexico's turbulent history.

Climb the steps (there is no admission fee) and your are enveloped by Orozco's scenes on ceiling and walls.

Politicians were the artist's special target. He shows two of them, apparently untrustworthy, shaking hands—with their left hands.

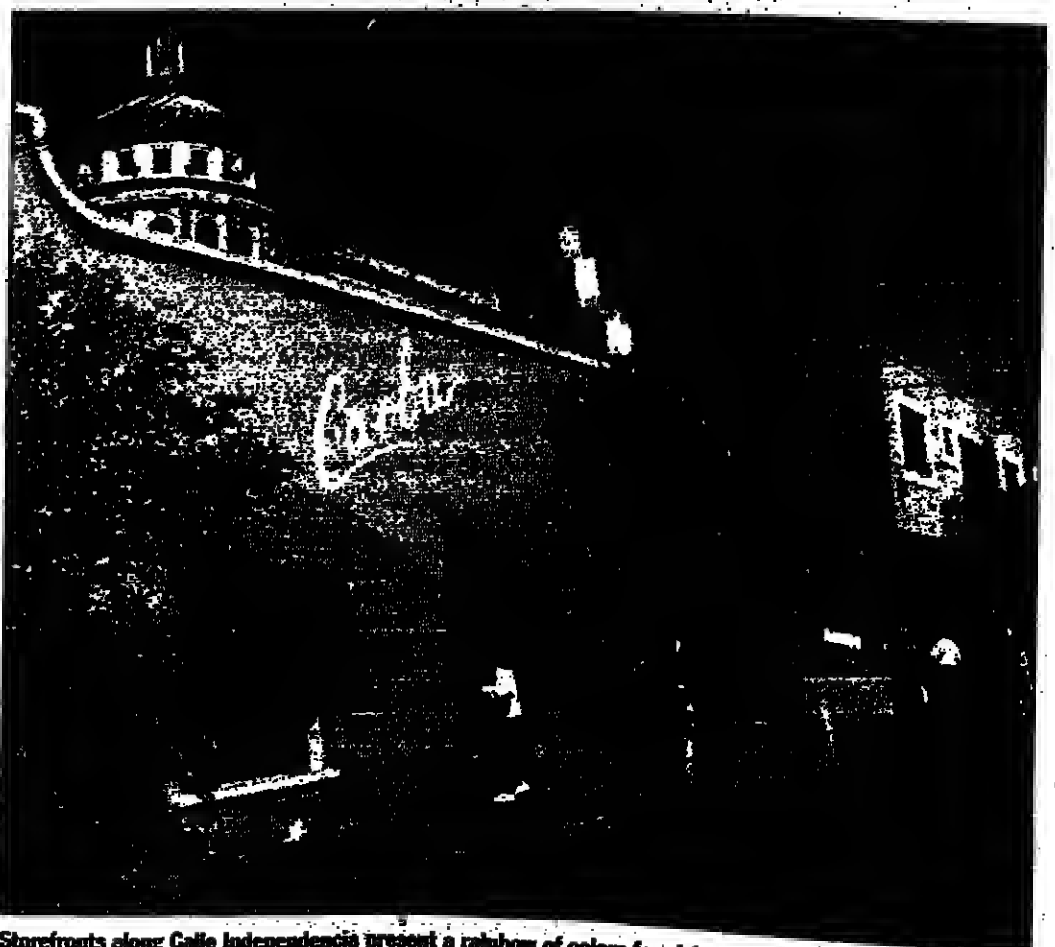
You leave the cathedral square, then walk down Plaza Tapatia, a five-block-long pedestrian mall, as the sunset sky changes from lemon to rose.

It's a soft segue in time. Street lamps glow. There is soft music in the distance. Kids munch puffs of cotton candy. A lover steals a kiss. There is the cadence of the bells.

A beggar woman, squatting, shawl over her head, reaches with her left hand. She is like a statue.

It is a reminder that not all is joy in glorious Guadalajara.

Stanton H. Patty, a Vancouver, Washington writer, is the retired assistant travel editor of The Seattle Times.



Storefronts along Calle Independencia present a rainbow of colors for visitors.

Mexico 1500

Friday night dinner tips

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM

Dear Ruthie, I am the mother of six kids ranging in age from one to 10. One of my frustrations as a mother is not being able to enjoy Friday night dinner. My children are always making noise and fighting at the meal. Can you give me some suggestions to improve the atmosphere of my table?

Frustrated Girl Friday
Somewhere in the US

Dear FGF, Given your children's ages, as well as their "strength in numbers," it's a wonder you manage to have organized meals at all. High chairs, terrible twos and sibling rivalry — especially in the evening — are not a great recipe for peaceful coexistence among family members.

Just getting through the day with some semblance of sanity is an accomplishment most mothers should land. Instead, "just getting through the day" in the language of Motherhood usually translates as "failure."

But your family meals are not a failure. They are just an example of Reality Slapping Fantasy in the face. Altering the fantasy by lowering high expectations can do wonders to "improve" dinner-table atmosphere. If you feel less pressure to create harmony out of chaos, you will project a calm which can be contagious — at least for a few minutes at a time. If not, you may have no choice but to wait until the kids are older before being able to enjoy these dinners. As long as you don't have a picture of the Brady Bunch too firmly implanted in your imagination.

Dear Ruthie, My mother-in-law lives in the "granny flat" which we purchased and renovated just below us. She is a wonderful woman, and we all love her dearly, but one problem has arisen since she moved in.

My children, aged three and seven, are never in bed at their usual bedtime anymore. Before their grandmother lived downstairs, they

were both sound asleep by 7:30. Now, their schedule includes running down to say good night, drinking cocoa, hearing an extra bedtime story, etc., well after they should be finished with all of these preparations. I don't want to break their hearts by putting a stop to the fun they're having, but I am beat at the end of the day, and miss having total peace and quiet by 7:30. What can I do?

Plum Tucked Parents
Somewhere in Israel
Dear FTF,

Perhaps the novelty of having a built-in granny at their disposal will soon wear off, and your kids will return to their former schedule. However, even if the "good ol' days" are over, you need not despair.

Firstly, as children grow older, their "zero hour" inevitably gets pushed ahead anyway. Secondly, the circumstances of your own life are altered now that your mother-in-law has become a daily fixture.

While the downside may be your children's later bedtime, the upside is the availability of assistance with the kids during the rest of the day. This assistance may cause you to feel less "mucked" by sundown, thereby eliminating the problem.

Dear Ruthie, Why are service people so rude to tourists in Israel? My wife and I have just returned home after a two-week tour, dismayed by the attitude of waiters, hotel clerks and other people whose job it is to serve. How can they be educated to know that the "customer is always right"?

Ticked Off Tourists
Boston, Mass.

Dear TOT, Though there's no excuse for rude behavior, Israelis tend to respond badly to imperious manners. Just as you perceive certain attitudes to be impolite, your own may have been interpreted as "condescending" and "bossy." Perhaps we could all do with a little educating.

Letters should be addressed to: Dear Ruthie, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@post.co.il

TV violence: It's all in the ratings

ADEENA SUSSMAN

Instead of the opening credits to their favorite programs, the first thing American television viewers may see as of February 1997 could look something like this:

"The following episode of NYPD Blue is rated 3 for mild sexuality, 4 for strong language, 4 for excessive violence and 3 for adult viewing only."

What's more, beginning next year every new television set sold in the US will be equipped with a toy device called a v-chip, which will encode all programming based on its content and allow parents to supervise family viewing choices by blocking shows deemed unfit.

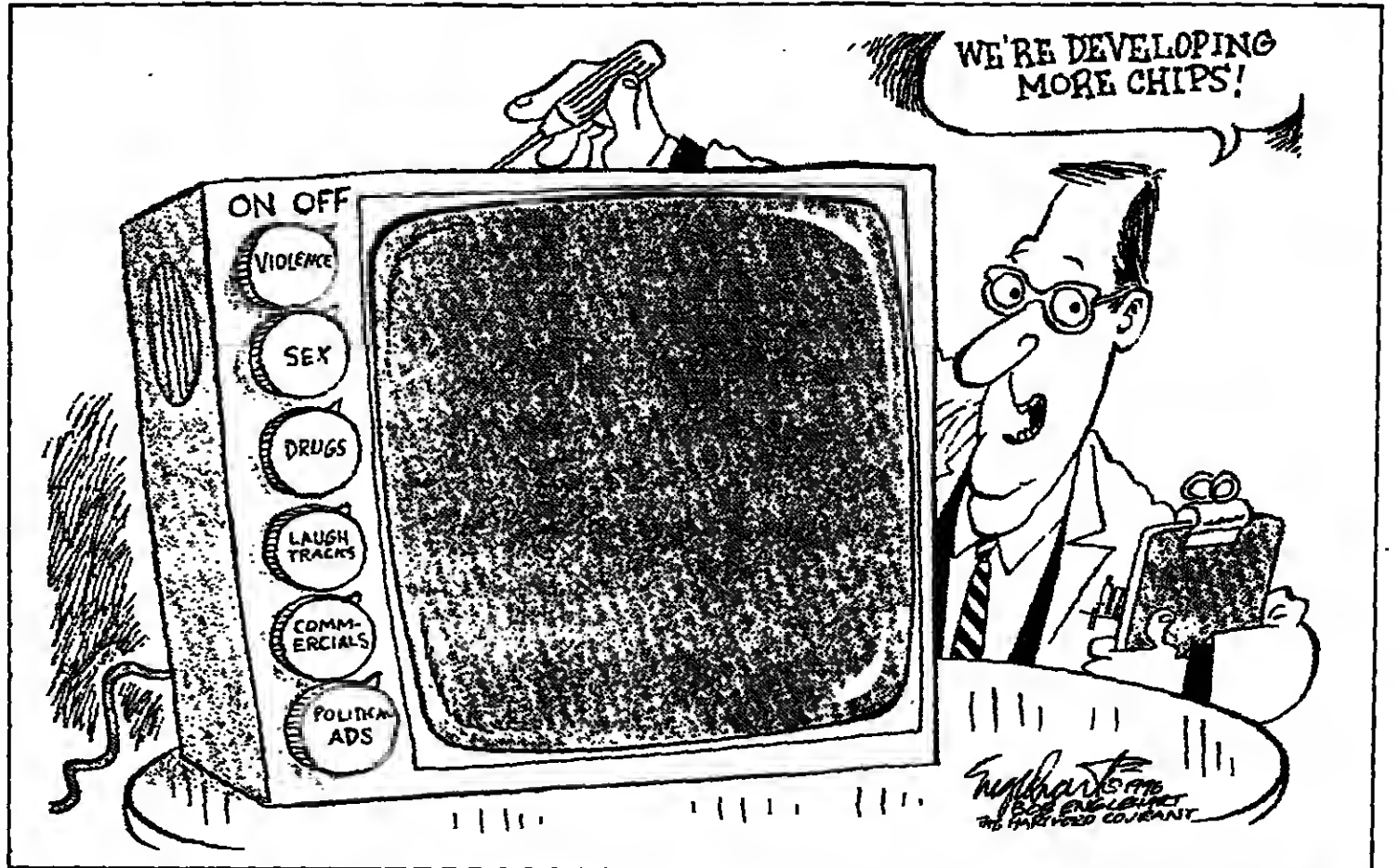
Parents will program a four-digit "tolerance code" for programming into their v-chip-outfitted set, establishing the level of sexually explicit and violent programming acceptable for their home. At the same time, networks will encode all programs, automatically blocking any programs not meeting a home's customized standards.

The ratings system, to be developed by all four of the major US TV networks, and the mandatory v-chip, are two facets of the sweeping Telecommunications Reform Act signed into law by US President Bill Clinton on February 8.

The new law deal with other issues more important to the business of TV, such as cable regulations and station relicensing. But the v-chip and the program ratings which grew out of it will most directly affect the viewing habits of a nation whose citizen may watch as much as eight hours of TV per day.

Proponents of the new legislation, including right-wing religious groups, deem the v-chip and television ratings important tools for any responsible family. They insist that parents need help in monitoring the massive amounts of programming available.

OPPOSITIONERS OF the system object to what they perceive as infringement of the TV industry's — and ultimately the viewers' — freedom of expression and freedom of the press. The American



Civil Liberties Union has filed a suit against the act, claiming that free speech is in perilous danger of coming under the control of regulatory bodies. Others argued that the technology allows parents to take an even less active role than they do now in their children's viewing choices, leaving decision making to the v-chip.

The growing debate over the increasingly violent and sexual content of prime-time programs, and the pressure from critics of that very content, contributed to the new law, which was initially proposed by a Democratic member of the House of Representatives but was later embraced by Republicans as an attractive addition to conservative Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America." The law was held up in Congress for months in 1995 while Republicans and Democrats wrangled over issues like welfare

and Medicare. The "Big Four" networks — ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC — were initially adamant in their opposition to the v-chip, but reversed their decision in what *Broadcasting and Cable* magazine called "Elegant Surrender" and "The Shortest Engagement Since the Six Day War."

It is generally accepted by industry professionals that the networks capitulated once they realized that resisting the ratings system was a losing proposition, and that anti-v-chip sentiment would affect their chances later on of receiving important discounts and concessions in their quest for fully digital broadcasting systems, hailed as the next generation in television technology.

The networks have promised to come up with a self-imposed ratings system within a year, preferring self-regulation to the alternative of an FCC-appointed com-

mittee. Rupert Murdoch, chairman of the News Corporation's Fox network, was the first network head to announce that it would create a content-ratings system. Fox broadcasts shows like *Melrose Place* and *Married With Children* and is often criticized for its "trashy" content.

THE OTHER three networks initially balked at the ratings idea, but with Fox blazing the trail for voluntary censorship, they quickly followed suit. The networks agreed to form a joint committee to come up with a coherent policy within the allotted time.

The committee will be chaired by Motion Picture Association of America head Jack Valenti, who introduced ratings for feature films in the US. The smaller networks, Warner and UPN, may just follow the lead of the other four. Continuing their turnaround,

recent networks even began touting the wholesomeness of their shows. In introducing tentative future programming schedules, CBS network executives labeled their new program schedule "v-chip friendly."

Canada has already begun testing the v-chip, installing the experimental technology in 130 homes throughout the country. Shows are rated in four categories: for which audience a show is appropriate, and the levels of sexuality, violence and language. Two US stations, WUTV in Buffalo, New York, and WVET-TV in Bellingham, Washington, volunteered to participate in the Canadian v-chip tests.

But since the new law stipulates that the v-chip be installed only in new sets, it's going to take a long time for the technology and ratings system to have much of an impact on American viewers' enormous appetite for programming.

Watchmaker, watchmaker, make me a watch

RUTH KERN

WHAT Paris is to haute couture, and Milan is to exclusive sports cars, Geneva is to luxury wristwatches. Just as the Swiss city is physically situated on an east-west line between Paris and Milan, top-quality watches occupy a midpoint between fashion and engineering.

Like Geneva itself, watches are a relatively low-key, modest symbol of wealth and taste, albeit one that is unmistakable to the trained eye. The modestly mid-rise, predominantly French-speaking metropolis of fewer than 200,000 residents (a third of them foreigners, courtesy of international agencies and diplomatic missions, as well as economic migration from Europe, Asia and Africa) doesn't try to compete physically with the natural glories of the surrounding snow-topped Alpine peaks. Rather it seems to take its cue from placid Lake Geneva, whose slight ripples on a recent spring day weren't even enough to set the halcyons of the hundreds of moored sailboats clanging against their mast.

It's hard to escape from the city's timekeeping legacy, as the names of dozens of local manufacturers are proclaimed (quietly, this is Switzerland) from the rooftops. A quick scan of the lakeside 19th-century skyline takes in Patek Philippe, Rolex, Chopard, Breitling, Raymond Weil, Tissot, Piaget, Franck Muller, Gubelin, Baume and Mercier and Piaget among the names of banks, airlines and home-electronics giants.

The lake which so defines the city is also the focus of the second-most charged political issue facing Geneva today. On June 9 a referendum will be held on whether to

build an automotive crossing — bridge or tunnel — from one side to the other as a means of alleviating considerable, if eerily silent, downtown traffic congestion. The wheels of direct democracy grind exceedingly slowly — an earlier referendum failed to resolve the issue and a new left-leaning municipal government opposes a crossing near the center of town. One middle-aged resident, who favors the more expensive tunnel approach, commented wearily that the issue has been around as long as she can remember.

The Swiss do seem to get more worked up over transportation issues than most people. The question of joining the European Union often seems to hinge on whether doing so will allow other country's heavy trucks to pass through Switzerland's narrow mountain passes.

And the most emotional issue for the citizens of Geneva these days is the decision in April by Swissair to shift all but two of 15 international flights from their city's airport to Zurich. While the national carrier defends its controversial decision as a strictly business move, many Genevans remain convinced that it's a job by Swissair's predominantly German-speaking management at the French-speaking city.

Regardless of the motivation, Swissair's decision is setting off alarm bells about Geneva's continuing economic doldrums. Wages have remained stagnant for several years but prices of the basics are so high, that even the very well-off drive to nearby France to buy groceries. One watch-company executive admitted that she goes to France to buy her husband's favorite fish — at a third the local price. Take a walk



One of Geneva's high-end watchmakers, Chopard, is still a family-owned and -run operation.

through a downtown market and it's easy to see why. Chicken was priced at Sfr1.2 (NIS 3) per 100 grams while the local springtime speciality of white asparagus was marked down from Sfr12.50 (NIS 37.5) a bunch to a mere Sfr 7.80. Little wonder that local merchants lose an estimated Sfr2 billion a year to their

competitors across the border. Luckily for Geneva's most exclusive watchmakers, local wallets are not a concern. Their biggest markets are predominantly in East Asia, followed by the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

A RECENT visit to factories of two

of the top high-end manufacturers Chopard and Piaget — sponsored by the companies and their Israeli agent JB Jewellers, which has shops in Tel Aviv's Gan Ha'ir shopping center and on Jaffa Road in Jerusalem — helped explain why the rock-bottom models start at NIS 3,000 (Chopard) and certain one-off watches can cost up to NIS 9 million (Piaget).

Despite differences in style and corporate structure, both factories feel more like ateliers, where craftsmen sit silently at immaculate workbenches with a concentration and level of skill that would never be demanded of any assembly-line worker. The watchmakers at both even make their own tools. Both are completely integrated operations, making their own products from components to bracelets.

Chopard is still a family-owned and -run operation, although the last survivor of the original Chopard — who in 1860 started making pocket-watches for the Swiss railways — sold the name in 1960 to the Scheufele family of jewelers, originally from Germany.

The Scheufele clan — father Karl, mother Karin, son Karl-Friedrich, and daughter Caroline — run the company themselves from their modern, airy offices-cum-factory in an industrial zone in Geneva. Jackets-off executives and workers in blue lab coats work in close proximity.

Their designs, overseen by Karin, run in three main directions: sleekly classic, chunkier sports chronograph and jewel-encrusted. One of the latter's flagship lines is Happy Diamonds, a name which rings of those nonsense English phrases of which the Japanese are so fond. The Happy Diamond gimmick — not a word that would likely pass the lips

of a Scheufele — is the inclusion of seven complete, moving diamonds within the watchface. The line ranges from merely ostentatious to stunningly kitschy.

Even models sans gems and with leather rather than gold bands can be breathtakingly expensive. In one room, a finished product displaying the phases of the moon — elegant to the point of beauty — sits in an open box with the price-tag of \$326,000 casually attached.

When it comes to working with family, "discussions can get very hot," says Karin. "But I think emotion brings creativity."

THERE is still a Piaget — Yves, the president — at Piaget, but the company itself, founded in 1874, was sold to the Geneva-based Vendome Group in 1989. The reasons suggest the weaknesses that may plague a strictly family operation such as Chopard.

"It had become too diverse, and despite disagreements they tried to please everyone," notes one of the company's area managers. "They needed discipline; this price for this line. Otherwise they were in danger of becoming haute couture, which doesn't make money."

Piaget has a more defined style, one marked by "the integration of case and bracelet, the harmony," as one Piaget executive describes it. In the '70s, when some luxury watchmakers responded to the worldwide recession by mixing gold and steel in their products, Piaget stuck to its guns and to this day will mix gold only with platinum.

The aristocratic-looking, sleekly barbered Yves Piaget is the living symbol of continuity within the company, and insists that he considers himself a representative of the artisans. Yet to hear him talk in what

feels more like an audience rather than an interview, however, it's clear that he prefers socializing with the leaders of Third World countries than with artisans. He refers often to his friendship with the late, longtime president of Ivory Coast Houphouet-Boigny, and hints at his own role in the rapprochement between black African nations and Israel.

Piaget's watchmaking factory — looking more like a ski chalet than a modern industrial operation — is nestled in the village of La Cote Aux Fees, 1,000m. up and a nearly two-hour drive from Geneva. The craftsmanship here is "in the spirit of the Middle Ages," says the personnel manager proudly.

The watchmakers turn out only two watches a day each, supplying the roughly 20,000 pieces Piaget produces every year. The employees here do handwork that neither makes any functional difference nor is seen by the wearer. But then, if someone wants to spend \$1m. on a wristwatch, Piaget is there to provide a timepiece that justifies such a price tag. And customers can wait for up to a year for certain models.

Whereas the watches themselves are imbued with solid values of craftsmanship, pride and tradition, to own one only takes money. Hung on a wall in an office at the Chopard operation are two framed collages comprised of magazine cut-outs of people wearing the company's watches.

Along with the usual, perpetually tanned, celebrities such as Julio Iglesias and Princess Caroline of Monaco are other good customers Imelda Marcos and Baby Doe Duvalier. "We don't ask who they are," says a Chopard executive with a wink. "If they have the money, they buy."

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Shares little changed in quiet trading

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS were little changed yesterday, with Tadiran rising for a third session after its telecommunications subsidiary received a government contract. Discount Bank also advanced after the Knesset Finance Committee dropped a plan to force banks to shed their holdings in other banks except subsidiaries in which they held at 50 percent-owned subsidiaries. Discount Bank, which has a minority holding in First International Bank, advanced 2.25 percent. First International slipped 1% and Bank Hapoalim slipped 1% and Bank Leumi was unchanged. "It's a quiet market. Everyone's waiting for the elections" at the end of the month, said Daniela Finn, head of sales at Batucha Securities in Tel Aviv. The Two-Sided Index went up 0.07% to 204.16, while the Maof Index fell 0.14% to 214.56. About NIS 61 million worth of shares traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, 18% less than last month's average of NIS 74 million. Advancing issues and decliners were about even. The most active issue was Elite, whose shares were up 4.8% on NIS 3.8 million worth of shares traded. Elite reported a 1995 loss of NIS 6.1 million. Tuesday, after a

NIS 52m provision largely to restructure its operations in Europe. In 1994, Elite earned NIS 32.5m. "The stock had been depressed," and "maybe these results were not as bad as people expected," Finn said. Tadiran Telecommunications received a NIS 20m contract from the government to provide fiber-optic infrastructure to Modi'in. Among other actively traded issues, Koor, Tadiran's parent, rose 0.2%. The company said yesterday it would take public as much as 15% of its property-management subsidiary. IDB Holdings, the investment arm of the Recanat family of Israel, fell 2.5%. Teva eased 0.5%, while Pharmacia & Upjohn was denied a court order giving it exclusive rights to market an over-the-counter version of a treatment for baldness. The ruling allows Teva, as well as Alpharm Inc. and Bausch and Lomb Inc., to market generic versions of the drug. Chemical companies lost ground: Bromine fell 0.8%, Dead Sea Works shed 2% and Isral Chemicals eased 0.4%. Maktshim was unchanged. (Bloomberg)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table of stock prices and changes for various companies in Tel Aviv, categorized by Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and AFTERNOON/MORNING trading.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, Paris, Frankfurt, and others.

Dollar center stage in quiet May Day Europe

The dollar fell slightly against the mark after climbing to a 14-month high of 1.5370 on Tuesday. The Loodoo Stock Exchange started quietly, and dropped about 12 points, but recovered slightly in line with US stocks. Wall Street stocks and bonds were higher at mid-morning after news of a rise in the National Association of Purchasing Managers Index for April. The NAPM said yesterday its index of manufacturing activity rose to 50.1 in April from 46.9 in March. Loodoo was also constrained by caution ahead of local elections today and domestic and foreign economic data. US employment data for April are due tomorrow, keeping markets nervous. The Amsterdam bourse was also open. It was up 1.12 at 555.72 having gotten off to a slow start after Tuesday's Queen's Day holiday.

Nasdaq sets record high for 10th-straight close

The Nasdaq market roared to its 10th straight record close yesterday, matching an unbroke string of highs set in 1992, as investors again bid up shares of small and medium-sized companies. Blue-chip stocks drifted higher in subdued trading ahead of key economic data. Based on early and unofficial

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table of currency cross-rates for Mark, Sterling, Yen, SF, and FF.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes table showing DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes like FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, etc.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table of Israeli stocks listed in NY, including Amiel, Azura, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKETS

Table of dollar cross-rates for various currencies.

LIBOR RATES

Table of LIBOR rates for different terms and currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. with logo and contact info.

US COMMODITIES

Table of US commodity prices for oil, sugar, etc.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table of London commodity prices for metals.

SPOT MARKET METALS

Table of spot market metal prices for gold, silver, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table of New York metal futures prices.

Vertical text on the left margin: 'RIEFS', 'makes agreement', 'shutuzim', 'MONEY MARKET'.

Maccabi Tel Aviv reaches finals

MACCABI Tel Aviv withstood a terrific performance by Bnei Herzliya and concluded the sweep of their semifinal series with a 98-84 victory in Yad Eliyahu, last night.

Doron Jamchev was not available due to injury, and in his absence, Maccabi enjoyed one of their best offensive performances of the season.

The team was focused, the ball-handling was fluid, and the passes were crisp and in abundance.

The shooting was on target as well, and no one started off sharper than Tom Chambers, who had 16 points in the first 16 minutes to help the Tel Avivians storm out to a 49-34 advantage. Fortunately for Herzliya, Amir Mukhtari decided to get aggressive on offense and scored five consecutive points.

ELI GRONER

Mukhtari missed a free throw that would have been his sixth, but Maccabi's Tomer Steinhilber accidentally tipped it in for two more points. On Herzliya's next possession, Ami Nawi set up Amir Katz for his third three-pointer of the half and the deficit was cut to 49-44. A couple of Maccabi free throws determined the halftime score of 51-44.

Katz opened up the second half by nailing another three-pointer to move his club closer. The Maccabi lead remained between four and eight points as Moti Daniel (19 second half points) and Herzliya's John Hudson (20) seemed to be involved in a mano-a-mano duel, with each one scoring at will.

In the end, Maccabi just had too much firepower for the

Herzliyan. This was epitomized when, with the score 74-68 and nine minutes remaining, Daniel countered a Hudson three-point play with a rare four-point conversion. One minute later, the Herzliya bench was assessed a technical foul. Oded Katash converted both free throws to put the game out of reach.

For Maccabi, Daniel scored 31 points and Chambers added 25. Nadav Henefeld had a great line of 21 points, 8 rebounds, 6 assists and a steal. All of this bodes well for Tzvi Sherf's club which now has until May 12th to rest until the championship series ("Gmar-Sal") gets under way.

Tonight, Game 3 of the Hapoel Jerusalem-Hapoel Galil Elyon semifinal is scheduled to be played in Malha. The series is currently tied at one game apiece.



HARD-PRESSED - Orlando's Anfernee Hardaway gives Detroit's Terry Mills problems during their playoff game Tuesday.

Orlando sweeps Detroit

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan - Anfernee Hardaway scored 15 of his 24 points in the third quarter Tuesday night, leading Orlando to a 101-98 victory over Detroit and a three-game sweep of their opening-round playoff series.

Shaquille O'Neal went to the bench with his fourth personal foul and the Magic leading 57-55 with 9:18 left in the third quarter. But Orlando, led by Hardaway's six points, went on a 16-6 run over the next six minutes and led by 11 at the end of the period.

Allan Houston scored 33 points for the Pistons. His 3-pointer pulled Detroit within one point with 8:30 seconds left in the game, but Nick Anderson then made two free throws for Orlando.

Detroit had a chance to tie in the closing seconds, but Houston missed a 3-pointer. The Pistons got the rebound but Joe Dumars' shot was blocked at the buzzer.

Rockets 104, Lakers 89

Hakeem Olajuwon scored 30 points and host Houston used a late 13-0 run to beat Los Angeles for a 2-1 lead in their opening-round playoff series. Olajuwon, who fouled out with 10

minutes left in the Rockets' loss in Game 2, stayed out of foul trouble in Game 3, committing only two personal fouls.

He scored six points during Houston's decisive run in the fourth quarter, when the Lakers went scoreless for 6 minutes and 20 seconds.

The Rockets can wrap up the best-of-5 series with a victory tonight at the Summit.

Reserve Sedale Threat scored 10 straight points for the Lakers, helping them take an 89-86 lead with 8:22 left in the game. But then the Lakers went cold and the Rockets got hot.

Houston's Robert Horry sank a 3-pointer to it with 8:06 remaining, starting the 13-0 run that put the Rockets ahead 99-89. The Lakers didn't score again until Anthony Peeler hit a 3-pointer with 2:02 left.

Elden Campbell led the Lakers with 18 points.

SuperSonics 96, Kings 89

Hersey Hawkins' 3-pointer capped a late 9-0 run as visiting Seattle regained control of its first-round playoff series by rallying to beat Sacramento.

The SuperSonics lead 2-1 in the best-of-5 series, with Game 4 tonight at Sacramento and Game 5 if necessary at Seattle on Saturday.

Trailing 86-83 with 3:31 left, the

Sonics scored nine straight points over the next 2:15 minutes. The spurt began with two free throws by Hawkins and ended with his 3-pointer from the corner.

The Sonics, trying to avoid being upset in the first round of the playoffs for the third straight season, got 17 points from Sam Perkins and 16 from DeJae Schrempf. Shawn Kemp was saddled by fouls and held to seven points.

(Reuter, AP)

Yanks, O's play longest ever 9-inning game

BALTIMORE (Reuter) - The wait was worthwhile as far as the Yankees were concerned, as Tino Martinez's three-run homer in the seventh lifted New York to a 13-10 win over the Orioles in the longest nine-inning game in big league history.

Each team used five pitchers in the game, which lasted four hours 21 minutes, breaking the previous mark of 4:18 set between the San Francisco Giants and the Los Angeles Dodgers on October 2, 1962.

"No, I'm not tired," Yankees manager Joe Torre

said. "It was like a choose-up game out there. Great game for us... everything was up... our spirit was good on the bench."

New York trailed 9-4 before erupting for a five-run rally in the fifth, capped by Jim Leyritz's two-run blast. That set the stage for Martinez's towering shot off Keith Shepherd into the seats in right center.

The win moved New York (13-10) a half-game ahead of Baltimore (14-12) atop the American League East.

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TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS

Cleveland 3, Chicago 3
Boston 13, Detroit 4
Toronto 9, Milwaukee 8
Minnesota 16, Kansas City 7
Seattle 8, Texas 0
New York 13, Baltimore 10
California 7, Oakland 3

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:
Florida 7, Philadelphia 2
Pittsburgh 10, Cincinnati 7
Montreal at New York, ppd., rain
Atlanta 7, Houston 5
Chicago 7, St. Louis 6
Los Angeles 7, Colorado 4
San Francisco 9, San Diego 4

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division			
New York	13	10	.565
Baltimore	14	12	.538
Toronto	11	14	.440
Detroit	9	18	.333
Boston	7	19	.263
Central Division			
Cleveland	16	6	.667
Chicago	15	10	.600
Minnesota	13	12	.520
Milwaukee	12	12	.500
Kansas City	9	18	.333
West Division			
Seattle	16	10	.615
Texas	16	10	.615
California	13	12	.520
Oakland	13	12	.520

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division			
Montreal	17	9	.654
Atlanta	16	11	.593
Philadelphia	13	11	.542
New York	11	13	.458
Florida	11	16	.407
Central Division			
Chicago	13	14	.481
Houston	13	14	.481
Pittsburgh	12	14	.462
St. Louis	12	15	.444
Cincinnati	9	16	.360
West Division			
San Diego	17	10	.630
San Francisco	14	12	.538
Los Angeles	14	14	.500
Colorado	11	14	.440

Russia outskates, outclasses Italy, sets up semifinal with Canada

VIENNA (AP) - Favorites Russia defeated Italy 5-2 in a quarter-final yesterday to set up a semifinal rematch with Canada that is widely expected to produce the eventual winner of the World Ice Hockey Championships.

The Russians, world champions a record-22 times, toyed with an Italian team sporting 14-naturalized North Americans - mostly Canadians - and coached by Canadian Bryan Leffley.

It was the Italians' fourth straight appearance in the quarter-finals and their

fourth loss at that level.

Tomorrow's Canada-Russia semifinal is a rematch from an earlier pool game won 6-4 by Russia on a deciding goal in the final three minutes. The Canadians advanced with a 3-1 win Tuesday over defending champion Finland.

"It will be a big fight, nothing unexpected," said Russian coach Vladimir Vassiliev. "They (Canada) will play until there's not a drop of energy left and the one that has the most left will win."

"It would be more convenient for us to

play another team," he added.

The other semifinal pits the US against either Germany or the Czech Republic. The Americans - looking for their first medal in 34 years - qualified with a 3-2 win Tuesday over Sweden.

The Germans and Czechs were scheduled to play a late match with Germany trying to make the semifinals for the first time. The Czech have won six world titles.

Russia, fielding a dozen NHL players, looked like it was practicing, skating at half speed much of the time against the

much smaller, hustling Italians.

Dmitri Erofeev and Dmitri Kvantsov scored first-period goals to put the Russians ahead 2-0 after the first period.

The Italians' only moment came in the second period when Gaetano Orlando scored on a penalty shot at 14:23 to cut the lead to 2-1.

Orlando got the penalty after he was pulled down from behind by Russian Boris Mironov as he was moving in alone on goalie Andrei Trefilov. The goal awakened the slumbering Russians, who got

scores from Valeri Karpov (Anzheim Mighty Ducks) and Alexei Yashin (Ottawa Senators) in the final five minutes to lead 4-1 after two.

Italy cut the lead to 4-2 on a goal by Stefan Figliuzzi at 5:22 of the final period, but Roman Oksjuta (Anzheim) made it 5-2 at 10:21.

In the first game of a best-of-three relegation, France defeated Austria 6-3. The loser of the series will be demoted to world hockey's second group and Latvia will be promoted to the top group of 12.

Bayern Munich: Oliver Kahn, Thomas Helmer, Markus Babel, Oliver Kreuzer, Dietmar Hamann, Ciriacu Sforza, Lothar Matthaus (Dieter Frey, 53) Mehmet Scholl, Christian Ziege, Jurgen Klinsmann, Jean-Pierre Papin (Marcel Witeczek, 68)

Bordeaux: Gaten Huard, Jakob Friis-Hansen, Francois Grenet, Jean-Luc Dogon, Bizente Lizarazu, Philippe Lucas, Laurent Croci, Anthony Bencard, Daniel Dumeil, Richard Witschge, Didier Thioulet (Ceiric Anselin, 89)

Late British soccer results

Premier League:
Arsenal 0, Liverpool 0.
Division One:
Ipswich 2, Huddersfield 1.

Oilers head to Nashville in 1998

ATLANTA (AP) - In today's era of franchise free agency, this will have to pass for stability.

The Houston Oilers are staying put for two more years, then the NFL team is off to Nashville, Tennessee, and the promised riches of a new 65,000-seat stadium.

NFL owners, meeting at an airport hotel in Atlanta, voted 23-6 yesterday to allow the Oilers to move to the Tennessee capital in 1998. But no one relishes the prospect of a lame-duck team playing before tens of thousands of empty seats.

"There was a big resolve in there to make this the last opportunity for a team to relocate," said Jerry Jones, owner of Dallas Cowboys.

The Oilers will be leaving the city where they were founded in 1960 as a charter member of the American Football League. Considering six other teams have switched cities since 1982, three in the past year alone, the news of yet another franchise shift was

greeted with a collective yawn.

Even in Houston, where attempts to save the Oilers never generated the passion of those in Cleveland when the Browns left for Baltimore, the loss of an NFL franchise caused barely a ripple.

"This has been a foregone conclusion," said Houston Mayor Bob Lanier, who was attending an NBA playoff game.

Adams said he would not try to buy out of his Astrodome lease, scuttling speculation he would play in Memphis, Tennessee, until the new stadium is built in Nashville.

The Oilers, who have yet to launch a season-ticket campaign, issued their 1996 schedule last week without saying where the club plans to play.

"I think we'll get the fans out, especially if we're winning," said Adams, who plans to change the team's nickname when it moves. "Who knows? Maybe we'll go to the Super Bowl."

IT took her 32 years but Lydia Hatoel-Zuckerman finally achieved the most impressive result in Israeli fencing - a bronze medal in an international competition. Hatoel-Zuckerman came third at the World Cup competition held in Como, Italy, beating her Chinese opponent 10-8 after trailing 7-8 with 30 seconds left. Hatoel-Zuckerman lost her next fight, for a place in the final, against an Italian fencer 15-10 but ended the tournament with a new world rating of 13 and will, as a bonus, now compete on the second day of the Olympics in Atlanta.

Making the Olympic grade

Proving themselves this week were the Chantal brothers, Nir and Ran, who finished seventh in an international tournament in the Olympic-470 category in Aire, France, sealing their Olympic spots.

Also swelling the ranks were pole vaulter

Israeli fencer takes bronze in world tourney

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relationships in two years' time.

Loosing and winning at tennis

Noam Behr was close to winning his first professional tournament of his career this week when he narrowly lost the final of a tournament in Uzbekistan to Stéphane Simian from France 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (11/9).

And where some almost succeed, others pull it off completely.

The Eisenberg Israel Open, the only ATP tournament held in Israel, was chosen as the best tournament on the ATP series in 1995.

The players themselves decide which tournament wins, based on professional and social considerations.

President of the Israel Tennis Centers Dr. Ian Froman, described by the ATP tour, as "bringing friendship and understanding in the Middle East through tennis," was in Monte Carlo to receive the prize at a gala evening.

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2nd Div. soccer action resumes next weekend

SECOND Division soccer will restart next weekend, after a two-week hiatus due to Hapoel Kiryat Shmona's inability to keep up with the rest of the league during Olympic Games of Wraith.

Kiryat Shmona is two games behind the rest of the league, which has played 25 of its 30 rounds. The northerners' outstanding fixtures will be completed this Tuesday at home to Maccabi Kiryat Gat and a week later at Maccabi Yavne.

The last round of the Second Division will be played on June 8, three weeks after National League soccer action is due to be completed. The majority of Second Division managements are unhappy with the arrangement and are preparing to call on the IFA to freeze relegations this season.

The managements contend that this at least would not harm the two top teams in the league: Hapoel Tarba have clinched promotion to the National League and Hapoel Jerusalem are all but certain to join them. This arrangement is not seen as a likely scenario, however.

ORI LEWIS

SCOREBOARD

CRICKET - Results of rain-affected Benson and Hedges Cup limited-overs group A

At Jesmond: Leicestershire beat Minor Counties on a higher run rate after rain prevented a resumption of play. Minor Counties 206-9 in 55 overs; Leicestershire-175-5 (35 overs).

At Chester-le-Street: Durham v Warwickshire no result after match abandoned. Durham 143-4 (40 overs); Warwickshire 45 not out.

At Chesterfield: Lancashire beat Derbyshire on higher run rate. Derbyshire 137 in 3.33 overs. Lancashire 124-7 in 26.3 overs (D.Cork 5-49).

At Cardiff: Somerset beat Glamorgan on higher run rate. Somerset 239-8 (49 overs); Glamorgan 161-6 in 36 overs.

BASKETBALL - Washington Bullets vice president and general manager John Nash shocked the organization yesterday by abruptly resigning after a six-

